Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Do you think DPS officers escorting AG Edward T. Buckingham and his wife to the airport was proper?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
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to cast your vote.

INSIDE

MAHARLIKA

Anatalia de Guzman, a 53-year-old overseas Filipino worker on Saipan, was terrified and felt helpless when she received the news yesterday that her sisters and their children needed evacuation as floodwaters reached the second floor of their two-story house in Cupang, Muntinlupa in the Philippines in the wake of heavy rain and floods brought by an enhanced southwest monsoon.

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BUSINESS

U.S. airlines are more punctual and less likely to lose your bag than at any time in more than two decades.

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ASIA

Testimony in China's most closely watched murder case in decades wrapped up within hours on Thursday as the wife of disgraced politician Bo Xilai stood accused of luring a British businessman to a hotel, getting him drunk and pouring poison into his mouth.

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Fitial on AG: I want him back

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said yesterday he wants Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham back, amid calls from some House members for the governor to ask for the AG's resignation and a letter from the Senate asking Fitial to suspend the AG without pay.

Fitial

Fitial, in a chance interview while he was on his way out of the governor's office building on Capital Hill yesterday, said the last time he talked to Buckingham was when the AG asked him he will rescind his resignation.

That was on Sunday, a day after

See FITIAL on Page 4

Senate EAGI panel asks DPS, CPA to conduct 'full internal investigation'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations formally asked yesterday the heads of the Department of Public Safety and the Commonwealth Ports Authority to initiate a "full internal investigation" into what appeared to be an attempt by armed DPS and CPA officers to prevent the serving of a penal summons to Attorney General Edward Buckingham on his way out of the CNMI on Aug. 4.

Buckingham was served a penal summons by an FBI agent shortly before the plane took off, in connection with criminal charges filed by the Office of the Public Auditor against him.

EAGI chair Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian) separately asked DPS acting commissioner Aniceto Ogumoro and CPA

See SENATE on Page 4

Saipan lawmakers split $190K in developers' tax for precinct projects

From left, House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan), Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan), Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan), House minority leader Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), and Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan) confer with each other on a local bill appropriating $190,000 in developers infrastructure tax for a host of precinct projects during a break in the session of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation yesterday morning. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Saipan lawmakers passed yesterday a local bill splitting $190,000 in developers' infrastructure tax among five Saipan precincts for their respective projects, with Precinct 2 getting the biggest chunk of $100,000.

By a vote of 14-3, House Local Bill 17-69, House Draft 1 passed the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation. The bill now heads to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial for action.

Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), author of the bill which gives 53 percent or $100,000 of the total appropriation to his own Precinct 2, succeeded in getting the approval of his colleagues to his floor

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'Double Jeopardy Clause not applicable in Miah case. PAGE 2
Sablan unveils new strategic priority for PSS. PAGE 3

Local

‘Double Jeopardy Clause not applicable in Miah case’

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Double Jeopardy Clause is not applicable in Mohammad Jahangir Miah’s case and does not prohibit the U.S. government from seeking to void his plea agreement, according to assistant U.S. attorney Stephen F. Leon Guerrero.

Leon Guerrero said Miah relies on a proposition that the Double Jeopardy Clause prohibits the U.S. government from using his actions underlying the acquitted charges as a basis for the breach of plea agreement.

Miah is mistaken, said Leon Guerrero in the U.S. government’s reply to the defendant’s opposition to a motion to declare him in breach of plea agreement.

Double Jeopardy Clause prohibits anyone from being prosecuted twice for substantially the same crime.

Leon Guerrero said the U.S. Supreme Court, in addressing acquittals, has reasoned that “acquittal on criminal charges does not prove that the defendant is innocent; it merely proves the existence of a reasonable doubt as to his guilt.”

The prosecutor said Miah admitted to his participation in the bank fraud conspiracy.

Leon Guerrero said the U.S. government submits that dismissal of the conspiracy to commit bank fraud charge against Miah in the forging of stale CNMI tax refund checks case was improper.

“In essence, the basis for dismissing the case against defendant Miah was because no independent evidence was presented to corroborate defendant Miah’s admission as to the fraudulent check cashing scheme,” he said.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, Leon Guerrero pointed out, has held that once the existence of a conspiracy is shown, a defendant’s confession may be used to link him to that conspiracy.

Leon Guerrero said the evidence produced at trial against Miah, prior to the dismissal, showed he was complicit in the conspiracy to fraudulently cash the tax-refund checks.

“Based on the criminal activity defendant Miah engaged in after his plea in this case, defendant Miah breached his plea agreement and the government is not bound to recommend a minimum sentence. The government intends to seek an upward departure at sentencing,” the prosecutor said.

In August 2011, Miah pleaded guilty to one count of conspiring to unlawfully produce and transfer identification documents. His original sentencing date was Nov. 15, 2011.

The defendant’s sentencing was postponed several times for various reasons, including his indictment in a case of conspiracy to forge stale CNMI tax refund checks. Miah’s charges in that case were subsequently dismissed. His co-defendant Earl Eric Mirano was found guilty.

Assistant U.S. attorney Garth R. Backe filed in March 2012 a motion asking the federal court to declare Miah in breach of the plea agreement.

Backe argued that the plea agreement expressly stated that, should defendant “engage in criminal conduct after the entry of his plea agreement and before sentencing,” the government would then be “free from its obligations under the agreement.”

On Monday, Miah, through counsel Colin Thompson, asked the federal court to proceed with his sentencing in connection with his conviction in the driver’s license scam at the Department of Public Safety.

Thompson, requested the U.S. District Court for the NMI to deny the U.S. government’s motion to declare him in breach of plea agreement.

According to Thompson, Miah was acquitted at trial of the offense(s) for which the government seeks to prove as the basis for finding him in breach of the plea agreement.

“As a consequence of a finding of breach, the government desires to void its obligations concerning the dismissal of criminal counts and imposition of punishment. The Double Jeopardy Clause prohibits the government’s intended actions,” Thompson said.

RAINY DAY HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
The rainy weather and temperature keeps this glass wall at McDonald’s-Garapan branch misty last Wednesday afternoon. A storm that moved across the Marianas dropped several inches of rain over the CNMI earlier this week.

Drinking session ends up in bloody mess

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A drinking session by four persons ended up in a bloody mess when one got mad over an argument and started beating and attacking the three with empty bottles of liquor at a former garment factory in San Antonio Wednesday night.

The suspect, Akripa Frances, a 40-year-old man, was arrested on Thursday and taken to the Superior Court yesterday on charges of assault with a dangerous weapon, aggravated assault and battery, and assault and battery.

Associate Judge Perry B. Inos imposed a $30,000 cash bail for the defendant’s temporary release.

Police identified the victims as Simerian Nisiuo, a female; Eboly Berry, a male; and Cecilia Fitial, a female.

Police said Nisiuo suffered swollen eyes and lips, while Berry sustained multiple bruises and lacerations to the head, arms and face.

Police said Fitial also suffered swollen face and eyes.

Detective Kevin R. Maratita stated in his report that on Wednesday at 10:49pm, a caller reported to the Department of Public Safety about a domestic incident in Afetnas area.

Maratita said the two responding police officers observed a man and a woman fighting on the shoulder of the northbound lane in front of the former Monte Carlo Night Club in Chalan Piao.

The man identified as suspect Frances left when the officers arrived. The officers noticed that the woman identified as Nisiuo had blood covering her face.

When one officer asked what happened, Nisiuo replied that she had fallen and injured herself. She then yelled in pain.

An ambulance transported Nisiuo to the Commonwealth Health Center for further treatment.

A bystander later approached the officers and disclosed that there was a man sitting on the southern side of the former Marianas Garment Manufacturing, calling for help.

One officer checked the location and found the injured man, who was identified as Berry. Berry told the officer that it was Frances who was responsible for the attack and that another victim, Ms. Fitial, was up on the third floor of the former MGM Garment.

The officer requested DPS Central to provide additional units to their location and another ambulance as the suspect had gone back to the area.

Three police officers observed a blood trail on the first floor leading to the third floor, where they heard a woman crying and a man whispering to her.

The officers saw Frances standing in front of his girlfriend, Fitial. Fitial’s face was covered with blood.

At 1am Thursday, police arrested Frances.

Maratita said preliminary investigation showed that prior to the fight, Frances and the three victims were drinking Soju.

During an argument, Frances allegedly started punching Fitial on the face. Berry and Nisiuo tried to pacify Frances, who turned on them.

Frances allegedly started punching and kicking Berry and Nisiuo. The suspect took empty Soju bottles and began hitting and breaking the bottles on Fitial, Berry, and Nisiuo.

Maratita said Frances admitted to a police officer that he had lost control and started beating the victims and hitting them with bottles.

Radio Australia’s Pacific Break contest now open to NMI artists

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Local musicians from the Commonwealth are encouraged to join an exciting musical competition that will entitle them to a trip to Australia and take part in a professional recording session with Radio Australia and the Australian Broadcasting Corp.

Radio Australia’s Pacific Break contest is now in its fifth year. This year’s winner will fly to Australia to spend a week with the company where they will also have the opportunity to record a demo in its ABC studios to showcase their musical talents and to learn from industry professionals.

The invitation for the CNMI artists was relayed by Patrick Black, the public diplomacy and research officer of the Australian Embassy, to Tan Siu Lin Foundation manager Ed Arriola, Jr. when Arriola announced plans for Tan Holdings to hold a free musical concert for Labor Day celebration next month.

The“CNMIMusicalFestival” will also feature talents of local musicians and artists. For those who want to participate in any or both musical events, they are encouraged to contact Arriola at ed_arriola@tanholdings.com or call Rebecca Tenorio at 287-4578 for more information and assistance.

Based on available information about the Pacific Break contest, the winner will fly to Australia to record a demo of their best song within a professional recording environment, showcase their musical talents and learn from industry professionals. They’ll also attend the Australasian World Music Expo in Melbourne accompanied by a local music mentor who will provide guidance and assistance throughout their Australian experience.

Over the past four years, Radio Australia’s Pacific Break has been committed to uncovering the best unsigned original musicians the Pacific has to offer with the winners from each year performing at Fest’Napuan, a four-day music festival in Vanuatu.

In Pacific Break’s inaugural year in 2008, Vanuatu’s 26 Roots were named as winners, followed in 2009 by Papua New Guinea’s Emmanuel Mailau, Solomon Islands impressive reggae artists III Kings in 2010, and Fijian hip-hop crew BSQ last year.

Pacific Break accepts entries from any Pacific artist provided they don’t have a recording or publishing contract. The best entries received in the competition will be featured on the Pacific Break 2012 compilation CD, and as always, all entries received will be available for download on the Pacific Break website and played across Radio Australia’s FM network in the Pacific. To find out more about the competition, visit www.radioaustralia.net.au/pacificbreak.

Sablan unveils new strategic priority for PSS

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan, left, and board members Galvin Deleon Guerrero and Tanya King share a light moment during a break in last Wednesday's special meeting where the board unanimously approved a new four-year contract for the commissioner.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan has unveiled her new vision for the Public School System—a goal she is determined to achieve during her second term.

Sablan's first four-year contract expired this month and was renewed by the State Board of Education Wednesday following her success in meeting all the board's expectations when first hired as COE in 2008.

Throughout the first term, Sablan initiated and was successful in meeting goals of five strategic priorities that included high students performance, highly qualified and effective personnel, effective and efficient operations, safe and orderly schools, and parental engagement and community partnership.

"Today, I unveiled to the board my next priority for PSS: high performing with high reliability systems [strategy]," she told *Saipan Tribune* after Wednesday's special meeting.

Sablan explained that with PSS set to become a high performing school district, "the transformation must be backed by data that tracks the growth and improvement level, essentially giving rise to the reliability—accuracy and acceptability—of its classroom learning innovation and improvisation."

Based on the COE's report to the board, having a high performance with high reliability systems would elevate the performance of public school students, schools and the system, as a whole, to global standards.

"In essence, with high performance with high reliability as the new strategy would auger the school district's increased growth and development wherein public schools and students can become globally competitive, perhaps, the best in the world," said Sablan.

According to Sablan, under this new strategy, PSS will be looking at utilizing a "new" benchmarking system that aligns itself to the world's highest performing system. These systems reflect institutional practices and knowledge defined by research and backed by data.

"This is a huge task but implementing it locally is akin to an 'improvement journey' by utilizing a globally-recognized and practiced performance trajectory, by adopting a system that gauges educational success from 'poor to fair,' 'fair to good,' 'good to great,' and 'great to excellent,'" Sablan said, adding that the new strategy is a curriculum pathway that looks at the whole structure of a child: social, emotional, and physical state.

The new strategy is also in response to the growing demand for innovation in classroom learning by looking beyond the culture of learning that not only ensures a child can read and write, but looking at the whole well-being.

"The PSS leadership believes that what is most needed now is to rethink and identify a complementing approach at how educational leaders, schools, and stakeholders can apply new benchmarking and effectively implement it," added the commissioner.

Judge Inos seeks first retention election

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Perry B. Inos yesterday confirmed that he would seek his first retention on the bench this coming Nov. 6 election.

"I'm fair and honest," Inos replied as to *Saipan Tribune*'s question as to why should the people vote for his retention.

Inos, 45, said he likes what he is doing as a judge and that he is taking his job seriously.

Inos

"I want to maintain the integrity of the court," the judge said.

Inos' first six-year term as a judge will expire in September 2014. He began to serve on the bench on Sept. 22, 2008.

Article IV Section 5 of the CNMI Constitution provides that the retention election of a judge shall be placed on the ballot at the general election immediately before the end of the judge's term.

Inos notified Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Robert A. Guerrero on Wednesday of his intent to be on the ballot for retention.

"I am honored serving in my fourth year as an associate judge. I take this opportunity to ask the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to vote yes on my retention and to continue serving as an associate judge," Inos said in the letter to Guerrero.

Also up for retention this year are acting chief justice Alexandro C. Castro and associate judge David A. Wiseman. Castro and Wiseman had already filed their notice of intent to seek their second retention on the bench.

School year off to good start at MCS

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Mount Carmel School kicked off the new school year with a series of activities and events that are setting a positive and enthusiastic tone for the rest of the year.

On the mornings of Monday and Tuesday, its teachers focused on improving their teaching by studying a wide variety of instructional strategies and classroom management techniques.

The workshop was facilitated by Northern Marianas College's Liberal Arts Program coordinator Velma Deleon Guerrero, a former instructor in the college's school of education, a Mount Carmel School's 2007 Teacher of the Year, and NMC's 2010 Instructional Faculty of the Year. The facilitator provided information and insights on research-based strategies and techniques for the classroom.

School teachers also worked in groups to further analyze and evaluate different approaches to instruction and classroom management and took turns teaching each other new lessons they had learned. They identified areas in which they intended to improve throughout the school year as part of an overall professional growth plan.

"It was enlightening and refreshing, and it helped reinforce our prior knowledge about teaching," said vice principal for curriculum and instruction Bobby Baldazo.

MCS president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, meantime, led the orientation sessions for parents and guardians. Presentations during the event were also conducted by Baldazo, school business manager Keiko Yamagata, and federal programs manager for PSS Tim Thornburgh.

Speaking about the paradigm shift he would like the whole school community to embrace, president Deleon Guerrero told parents, "We invite you to take ownership by getting involved. This is, after all, your school, and we want you to be part of the many wonderful changes happening at Mount Carmel School."

Baldazo and Thornburgh separately discussed in their presentations about the expanded Title I program at the school, while Yamagata talked about the school's goals to raise more funds in order to keep Catholic education affordable yet sustainable.

'The first day: a day of firsts'

As is tradition, the first day of school began with an Opening Mass, which this year was celebrated by Apostolic Administrator for the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, Fr. Ryan Jimenez. In an effort to strengthen the relationship between the school and the diocese, Fr. Ryan was joined by several parish priests as concelebrants in the mass. While parish priests have concelebrated masses for the school before, this year marked the first year that they concelebrated the opening mass.

In another first for the school, students also participated in a special off-campus student orientation at Hollywood Theaters. They were treated to educational video clips, some theatrical trailers, the school's "I am a Knight" commercial series, and a special black light pantomime presentation by the Life in the Son Youth Ministry.

During the orientation, president Deleon Guerrero also spoke to students about expectations for the year. In his talk, he emphasized the need to live and breathe the school's mission "to educate the whole person to see with Christ's eyes," and took time to explain how students can translate that mission into everything they do.

Student Council president, Jimin Ryu, was very impressed by the way the school year was started.

"Mr. G's words were very inspiring. It was really important for everyone to really understand what the mission statement means and I look forward to everyone applying it," said the student leader.

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ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CITY TRUST BANK, Plaintiff,	]	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 97-1054**
-v-	]	**EIGHTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**
JUAN R SABLAN and ANGELINE F. SABLAN, Defendants.	]	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on November 10, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Real property situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, designated as Lot E.A. 839 NEW-6-3, containing an area of 1,329 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. E.A. 839 NEW.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, August 24, 2012, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 25th day of July, 2012:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

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New PNG deputy PM declared, ministers' portfolios unclear

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (PNG Post-Courier/PIR)—Prime Minister Peter O'Neill has appointed East New Britain Governor Leo Dion as the Deputy Prime Minister.

In a surprise move which will generate a wide range of reactions from across the nation, Mr. O'Neill announced Mr. Dion's appointment at the Government House, despite not living up to his promise of announcing ministerial portfolios for his 22 other Members that were appointed and sworn in yesterday, most of them relatively new.

Among them is woman parliamentarian and Lae MP, Loujaya Toni.

Mr. O'Neill said he would announce the portfolios today. The decision to have members sworn in without portfolios irked a few MPs and some elite members of the nation who eagerly waited for the announcement. This was a commitment Mr. O'Neill made last Sunday.

"Today concludes our formal line-up of Cabinet, which is a total of 33 as required by our law," Mr. O'Neill said.

"Let me take this opportunity to thank all the leaders of the coalition partners and especially Don Polye, the leader of Triumph Heritage Empowerment Rural (THE) Party, the second biggest party on the floor of Parliament, for agreeing to one of their members becoming the Deputy Prime Minister of the country," he said.

O'Neill

"Today's ministerial line-up, as many of you will notice, has got a fresh (outlook)… but I am certain that they will perform to their very best and to the expectations of our people. We will perform to our very best and I think today is a great start to making sure that Papua New Guineans are served."

Mr. Dion said it was a hard call to accept the second top position but assured everyone present that with his experience, he will do his best for the people.

It was reported on the social media yesterday that "Although Leo Dion is a quality choice too – he has the experience, respect and leadership qualities required – from the perspective of purely the numbers' game which is so crucial in PNG politics, it is a rather illogical decision, and one that must have been made with a few distractions in mind – most importantly in this instance – the idea of 'regionalism'."

MPs sworn in as Ministers yesterday and Rimbink Pato, David Arore, Paul Isikiel, Richard Maru, Dr. Fabian Pok, Nixon Duban, Jimmy Miringtoro, Tommy Tomscoll, Loujaya Toni, Kerenga Kua, Paru Aihi, Mark Maipakai, Justin Tatchenko, Michael Malabag, Jim Simatab, Byron Chan, Francis Awesa, Benny Allen, Davis Stevens, Steven Pirika Kamma and Boka Kondra.

The 10-member caretaker cabinet still remains and they include Don Polye -Treasury and Finance, Correctional Services, Labour, Industrial Relations, Immigration and Transport; Patrick Pruaitch - Housing, Urban, Provincial and Local Level Government and Forest; William Duma – Petroleum and Energy, Defence, Tourism and Art Culture and Autonomy and Autonomous Region (including Bougainville Affairs); Sir Puka Temu - Public Service, Agriculture and Livestock, Foreign Affairs and Trade; James Marape - Works, Implementation, Lands and Physical Planning, Education, Research and Science and Technology; Charles Abel - Commerce and Industry, Small Medium Enterprise (SMEs), Justice and Attorney General, Communication, Information and Technology; Mao Zeming – Fisheries, Marine Resource, Health, HIV Aids, Family Affairs , Youth Religion and Gender; Ben Micah –Public Enterprises, Sports and Pacific Game and Mining; and John Pundari - Environment, Climate Change and Civil Aviation.

Pacific surgeons gather for conference in Tonga

NUKUALOFA, Tonga (Matangi Tonga/PIR)—Surgeons in the Pacific Islands are limited in resources, but they should be proud of what they are able to achieve, the 11th Pacific Islands Surgeons Association Conference heard at the opening of the biennial conference being held in Tonga from August 7-10.

Professor Ikau Kevau the Vice President of the Pacific Island Surgeons Association told over 30 surgeons that some of the major challenges they faced included the need for MRI scans and 3D-scans, which are not available in the Pacific islands including Tonga, Samoa, Fiji and the Solomon Islands.

"We should be proud of our five senses because they are the only tools we have available," he said.

He said surgeons also needed to be well educated to go further in their line of work.

The conference held in partnership with the Tonga Medical Association brings to Nuku'alofa surgeons from Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Cook Islands, Nauru, New Zealand and Australia.

Discussion

Dr. Paula Vivili, the President of the Tonga Medical Association and Medical Superintendent at Vaiola Hospital, said the conference was an opportunity for education and discussion on surgical matters relevant to the Pacific people in the region.

He said key issues are building the capacity and capability of Pacific surgeons, responding and preparing to natural disasters, and surgical responses to non-communicable diseases.

"This is an opportunity for surgeons to discuss and plan for Pacific wide issues to ensure ongoing development and sustainability of surgical services throughout the region," he said.

Hands-on workshops and seminars were held by top surgeons from New Zealand, Australia and the islands. Visiting speakers include Dr. Ian Norton the Director of the Disaster Response and Preparedness - National Critical Care and Trauma Response Center in Darwin, Australia; Alex Auldist, a pediatric surgeon from Australia; and Lord Tangi of Tonga; with research papers presented by participants.

Also attending is Michael Hollands, the President of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons that provides training, examines surgeons and sets standards for surgical practice.

The Director of Health Dr. Siale 'Akau'ola said Tonga has three main surgeons at Vaiola led by Chief Surgeon Lord Tangi with Dr. Saia Piukala and Dr. Kolini Vaea.

He said the workload at the hospital was satisfactory, especially since Lord Tangi had returned to Vaiola Hospital.

SENATE

From Page 1

executive director Edward M. Deleon Guerrero to "determine whether all involved police officers/ports police officers committed any criminal acts and/or violated any departmental rules and regulations."

Cruz said the EAGI Committee looks forward to the two agencies' investigative findings and most importantly, to preserving the integrity of DPS and CPA and their fundamental principle of public service. Cruz said DPS' principle is "to serve and protect."

Ogumoro and Deleon Guerrero could not be reached for comment as of last night.

In his two-page letter, Cruz presented what his committee has so far gathered based on readily available information from the media.

Cruz said the incident occurred at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport in the early morning hours of Aug. 4.

He said on that day, Buckingham and his wife were captured on video with DPS and CPA officers—including DPS deputy commissioner Ambrosio Ogumoro, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's security aide Police Capt. Jermaine Nekaifes, and CPA Ports Police chief Jordan Kosam.

Cruz said these officers acted as "high-level escorts for the AG in what appeared to be an attempt to prevent the Office of the Public Auditor investigators from serving the AG with penal summons to appear in the CNMI Superior Court on Monday, Aug. 6, 2012 in response to charges filed against him."

The Senate EAGI panel chair also said officers "allegedly used physical force to prevent KSPN News anchor Tina Sablan from interviewing the AG while at the airport."

"As expected, these allegations gravely concern the Senate Committee on (EAGI), whose responsibility is to investigate any wrongdoings in our government and its operations. The committee believes that it is in the public's best interest to clarify the events that occurred in the early morning of Aug. 4, 2012 and to justify your personnel's actions," Cruz separately told the DPS and CPA heads.

In an interview yesterday, Cruz said he hopes DPS and CPA will heed the committee request. He said the EAGI Committee may send similar letters to other agencies.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said he has full faith in the EAGI Committee, that it will be able to "get to the bottom" of what transpired exactly a week ago at the airport involving the AG, DPS and CPA officers.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) alleged that the "governor knows everything about the incident," adding that he won't be surprised if federal authorities get in on the picture as some federally funded vehicles were used in transporting and escorting the AG.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman issued a bench warrant for Buckingham's arrest for not appearing in court despite penal summons served on him by an FBI special agent.

Wiseman imposed a $50,000 cash bail for Buckingham after he determined that the AG flagrantly disregarded the court's lawful penal summons.

The criminal charges against Buckingham included alleged hosting of a delegate candidate party at the governor's house in August 2010 and approving a $400,000 sole-source contract award to a Cabinet member within days of resigning from government.

OPA filed amended information adding two more charges against Buckingham. The new charges—obstructing justice: interference with service of process, and misconduct in public office—were related to Buckingham's alleged use of police officers to escort him at the airport to avoid being served with penal summons between Friday and Saturday.

FITIAL

From Page 1

Buckingham left Saipan after he was served a penal summons to appear in court two days later in connection with criminal charges that the Office of the Public Auditor filed against him.

Fitial said when he last talked to Buckingham, "he said he wants to come back."

When asked whether he wants the attorney general back, the governor responded, "Yes, I want him back."

Fitial, at the same time, said he's not responding to Senate President Paul Manglona's (Ind-Rota) letter.

Manglona's Aug. 7 letter asks Fitial to suspend Buckingham without pay for the duration of the criminal matter. Later on, Manglona said the AG still went ahead with his 30-day vacation and disregarded a penal summons to appear in court two days later.

"If he does not have the respect for his own office to do the right thing and tender his resignation once and for all, then you, as his superior should exercise the discretion to suspend him," Manglona told Fitial.

Manglona also asked Fitial to investigate the actions of Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner Ambrosio Ogumoro, the governor's personal security/driver police Capt. Jermaine Nekaifes, Commonwealth Ports Authority police chief Jordan Kosam, and other DPS and CPA officers when they—on or about Aug. 3 and 4—escorted the AG and his wife from their residence to the airport using government vehicles.

Fitial declined to comment further on the matter.

Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan) pre-filed on Thursday a resolution requesting the governor to ask for Buckingham's resignation.

House Resolution 17-106 has at least eight co-sponsors including Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), and crossing party lines.

'Soft resolution'

But Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan) said yesterday that HR 17-106 is "soft" and shortsighted. He said he won't be a co-sponsor to the resolution.

"Assuming the governor asked for the AG's resignation and the AG resigned, what's next? Just asking for his removal is not going to address most of the concerns in this whole matter," Tebuteb said.

Tebuteb, chair of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, said the Legislature could do more to get to the bottom of the whole incident, including conducting an oversight hearing, subpoena documents, and order the presence of DPS and CPA officials and involved officers, as well as the governor.

"But like I said, I think this resolution has enough support to be adopted. I think it will be adopted without my signature," he added.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman issued a bench warrant for Buckingham's arrest for not appearing in court despite penal summons served on him by an FBI special agent.

Wiseman imposed a $50,000 cash bail for Buckingham. He determined that the AG flagrantly disregarded the court's lawful penal summons.

OPA also filed amended information adding two more charges against Buckingham. The new charges-obstructing justice: interference with service of process, and misconduct in public office-were related to Buckingham's alleged use of police officers to escort him at the airport to avoid being served with penal summons between Friday and Saturday.

LAWMAKERS

From Page 1

amendment.

Demapan's amendment lowered Precinct 2's share of the pie, from $130,000 to $100,000, to be used to complete the Niyok Road project and other projects.

That $30,000 decrease in Precinct 2's share boosted the appropriations for Precincts 1, 3, 4, and 5 by $7,500 each.

With Demapan's amendment, Precincts 1, 3, 4, and 5 will get $22,500 each, instead of $15,000 as stated in the original measure.

The expenditure authority of the funds is the Department of Public Works secretary.

After the local bill passed, Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) asked for reconsideration of the vote, citing the need to address the transportation concerns of people with disabilities as raised by the Independent Living Council, particularly to buy a vehicle to provide service to these individuals.

But delegation floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan) said the request was only to help with fuel payment, and not to buy a new vehicle.

House vice speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) said there's another way to address this concern, and this may be accommodated in the fiscal year 2013 budget bill.

The motion for reconsideration of the original vote on HLB 17-69, HD1 was later on withdrawn.

Bermudes vows to make a difference in Senate

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

MONETH G. DEPOSA
Independent senatorial candidate Illuminada "Lumi" Bermudes, center, poses with family members and supporters after filing her petition for candidacy Wednesday noon at the Commonwealth Election Commission.

Independent bet Illuminada "Lumi" Bermudes formally made known her intention to seek a Senate seat after she filed Wednesday her petition for candidacy at the Commonwealth Election Commission.

Bermudes' decision has the full backing of her family and supporters who accompanied her in filing the requirements.

She will be running against three other contenders in the 2012 mid-term elections, including Ana Teregeyo, Ray Anthony Yumul, and incumbent Sen. Luis Crisostimo (R-Saipan).

Bermudes has been with the Public School System for more than 10 years. She now serves the system as its program manager for the Chamorro Carolinian Language Heritage Studies program. Prior to this appointment, she was also a teacher and a school administrator for many years.

"I know I can make a difference [for our people]. With the way everything is going on right now, I want to make sure that our people are represented," she said after filing Wednesday noon.

If elected, Bermudes vowed to craft and introduce legislation that will help generate revenues and create employment. Banking on the people's vote of confidence, she said this will happen for the people.

For Bermudes, the Commonwealth has its own unique beauty that it can effectively promote to other places. "We have something to offer and we need to show them to the outside world," she said.

For the first-time senatorial aspirant, her sincere motive to serve for the best interest of the people is what set her apart from other politicians.

In an earlier interview with Bermudes, she cited that education and economy will be among the priorities of her campaign. She may not have all the answers to questions, but she assured that she will work with and listen to everyone who wants to be part of the solution.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Monday jury selection cancelled

This is to inform all prospective jurors on panel "RS" that the jury selection scheduled for Monday, Aug. 13, 2012, at 8:30am in Courtroom 205A is hereby cancelled until further notice. For further information, contact Deputy Clerk Rosie T. Ada at the Superior Court at 236-9700 ext. 771. You may also contact 236-9765. ***(PR)***

GTC important school events/dates

■ **Parent orientation:** There will be a parent orientation for new and returning parents to communicate changes and expectations for SY 2012-13. Orientation will be on Friday, Aug. 17, 2012 at 5pm (approximately an hour). School supply listing and free meal application will be available.

■ **Kindergarten Reading First Assessment (RFA) Screening Test:** All in-coming kindergarten students will be tested with the RFA by his/her kindergarten teacher. The screening test is approximately 15-20 minutes. Scheduled testing time and date have been made with parents. Please do not miss your scheduled testing date. For your date and time, you may call, 237-3121 and ask for Ms. Angie. RFA testing days are Aug. 20-22, 2012 between 8:30am and 11:30am.

■ **Kindergarten orientation:** There will be an orientation for all kindergarten parents and students. This is an opportunity for you and your child to meet your child's kinder teacher and answer any questions you may have. Expectations about home-school partnership will also be shared. Kinder orientation is on Thursday, Aug. 23, 2012 beginning at 5pm to 6pm.

■ **First Day of School:** Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2012. Classes start promptly at 8am and ends at 2pm.

■ **Back to School Open House:** Friday, Sept. 7, 2012 at 5pm. We will convene in the cafeteria and then disperse into your child's classroom.

■ **School Supply List for Kindergarten to 6th Grade:** Is available at National Office Supply and Modern Stationery. ***(PR)***

UOG course: Changing trends in the hospitality industry

Registration is open for Changing Trends in the Hospitality Industry, level 1. Taught by UOG Professor Fred Schumann, this 15 contact hour course can be used to satisfy training requirements for those businesses that hold Qualifying Certificates. This online course is designed for tourism industry employees who seek advancement to the supervisory or management level and runs Aug. 27-31, 2012. The cost is $180. Register online at http://www.regonline.com/Hospitality_Online. For more information contact cmoore@uguam.uog.edu or call 735-2600/1. ***(PR)***

Saipan's biggest party set

The NMI chapter of the American Red Cross announces the 24th annual Club 200 "Way Out West", their biggest fundraiser of the year, will be held on Oct. 6 from 5pm to 10pm at the Fiesta Resort and Spa.

For the first time, the theme is western-based with a live country western band G-GAP coming from Tokyo to perform. Western attire is desired but not mandatory. Country line dancing is encouraged.

As always, there are a ton of raffle prizes, including a $15,000 grand prize. Tickets cost $100 each which includes entry into the raffle plus an all-you-can eat and drink buffet.

The event attracts more than a thousand partiers each year. Proceeds go to the non-profit American Red Cross.

For more information, contact the American Red Cross, NMI Chapter at 234-3459. ***(PR)***

Marianas Made set to open

Marianas Made, a new consignment store specializing in locally made art and crafts as well as packaged specialty foods, is screening local products.

The screening is set on Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2012 from 3pm to 5 pm at St. Paul's Episcopal Church behind Cafe at the Park in Garapan. Owner Debra Kay announced that Marianas Made will carry only items produced in the Mariana Islands. A cross between an art gallery and cultural gift shop, Marianas Made will carry prints, notecards, small stone and wood sculptures, beadwork, jewelry, candles, woven mats, coconut art, ceramics, wood carvings, music and more. Marianas Made will be located at the Thursday Street Market until a suitable store location can be found. For more information, call 287-0772 or e-mail changebuilding@gmail.com . ***(PR)***

BOE aspirant promises to continue legacy of late Dr. Inos

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

MONETH G. DEPOSA
State Board of Education aspirant Angel S. Hocog, center, is flanked by supporters Malua Peter, left, and Ignacia Piteg after filing his petition at the Commonwealth Election Commission Wednesday noon. Hocog is running against re-electionist Marylou Ada, Janice Tenorio, and Vic Cepeda in this mid-term elections.

Angel S. Hocog is running for a State Board of Education seat this mid-term elections because he believes it is his calling to continue the legacy of his late sister, former education commissioner Dr. Rita Inos.

Hocog shared that his many years with Inos while she performed her job at the Public School System brought him great motivation to follow her footsteps.

Last Wednesday, Hocog formally filed his candidacy at the Commonwealth Election Commission for Saipan BOE seat which is a heading to a four-way race with re-electionist Marylou Ada, Janice Tenorio, and Vic Cepeda as opponents.

Hocog is the incumbent executive director of the CNMI Arts Council and formerly served as member of the 9th Municipal Council. He also served as chairman of the Commonwealth Government Employees Credit Union. He graduated from Northern Marianas College with the degree of bachelor in science in elementary education.

With his deep concern on the progress of educational system on the islands, Hocog claimed he will be an asset to the education board in formulating sound policy decisions.

He also vowed to "fix" what maybe broken in the educational system and will continue to "protect" the students and the personnel to ensure the continuous flow of learning in the classroom. He promised to help seek more funding assistance to continue the programs for schoolchildren.

Besides the late Inos, Hocog said many of his family members and relatives are educators in public schools. And he takes pride in it. Since he expressed the desire to serve the public schools, Hocog started introducing himself to people and let them know his mission for the students.

He targets to offer schools more advanced learning tools and strategies to further the students' achievements.

RTCP announces start of 2012 signup period

MAITE, Guam—The Reimbursement Transportation Cost Payment Program for Geographically Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers provides payments intended to offset a portion of the costs of transporting agricultural inputs and products over long distances.

The program, authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill, assists farmers and ranchers in Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Alaska.

Benefits under RTCP are calculated based on the amount of costs incurred by the producer for transportation of the agricultural commodity or inputs purchased during a fiscal year, subject to an $8,000 per producer cap per fiscal year.

Sign-up for fiscal year 2012 RTCP will begin on July 23, 2012 and will end on September 10, 2012. Applications must be filed with your local Farm Service Agency (FSA) county office. Applicants will need to provide supporting documentation of actual costs for transportation of commodities and/or agricultural inputs to the Farm service Agency county office. Eligible receipts cover the period Oct. 1, 2011 through Sept. 30, 2012 and are due in the county office no later than Nov. 5, 2012.

Applicants may submit completed program documents during the announced sign-up period to the following address:

Guam Farm Service Agency Office
400 Route 8, Suite 306
Maite, Guam 96910

Late filed provisions will NOT apply to the RTCP-III Program for 2012. Applications received by mail after the application deadline date must have a postmark date no later than September 10, 2012 to be considered timely filed. Applications received after the deadline date will NOT be approved, including Faxed applications.

For more information on the RTCP program, visit your local FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport. ***(PR)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Tax-free Olympic glory?

Olympic athletes are very special people. But are they more special than, say, Nobel Prize winners, or police officers, or nurses, or spiritual gurus, or brilliant inventors or researchers whose discoveries enhance our lives? If an election year happens to fall in an Olympics year, yes.

Both presidential candidates have embraced an astonishingly silly but highly populist measure in Congress to exempt Olympic medalists from taxes, an idea that, naturally, originated with that bastion of silly but populist tax proposals, Grover Norquist's Americans for Tax Reform. The U.S. Olympic Committee awards honorariums in the amount of $25,000 for each gold medal, $15,000 for silver and $10,000 for bronze, which means, Norquist's group sputters, that a gold medalist would be on the hook to send up to $8,986 of his or her winnings to the IRS.

Never mind that the fact-checking organization PolitiFact ruled this claim "Mostly False," because any decent accountant could reduce that tax bite to as little as zero by deducting the expenses paid to win that medal, such as travel, uniforms, classes, payments to coaches, cost of equipment, etc. Republicans, with some Democratic support, quickly sponsored legislation in the House and Senate to make Norquist's notion law, and on Monday the White House weighed in by saying that if Congress approves the bill, President Obama will sign it.

Why? There's no legitimate tax policy reason. Politicians in both parties complain endlessly about the complexity of the U.S. tax code and its many needless loopholes, yet they're only too happy to add to the complexity and drill another loophole in an election season when liberals and conservatives alike are rooting for Team USA in London. If you're going to make an argument for a tax exemption, the first requirement should be to demonstrate that the tax relief would have a stimulative or otherwise beneficial effect on the economy without significantly worsening the deficit. That clearly doesn't apply here.

Forget about the brain, though; this bill is targeting the heart. Americans' guts tell them that Olympians work very hard, most of them are amateurs, and their accomplishments should be honored rather than snatched by the IRS. Yet if we were to carve out exemptions for all the people who work hard, make sacrifices and sometimes achieve remarkable feats, the government would quickly go broke. Is an Olympian's sacrifice in pursuit of personal glory really more noble (or worthy of a tax exemption) than a firefighter's risk of life and limb in a dangerous rescue operation? Hardly, yet firefighter salaries are taxed at the same rate as everybody else's. This mindless bill should be rejected with the authority of a Kerri Walsh Jennings block.

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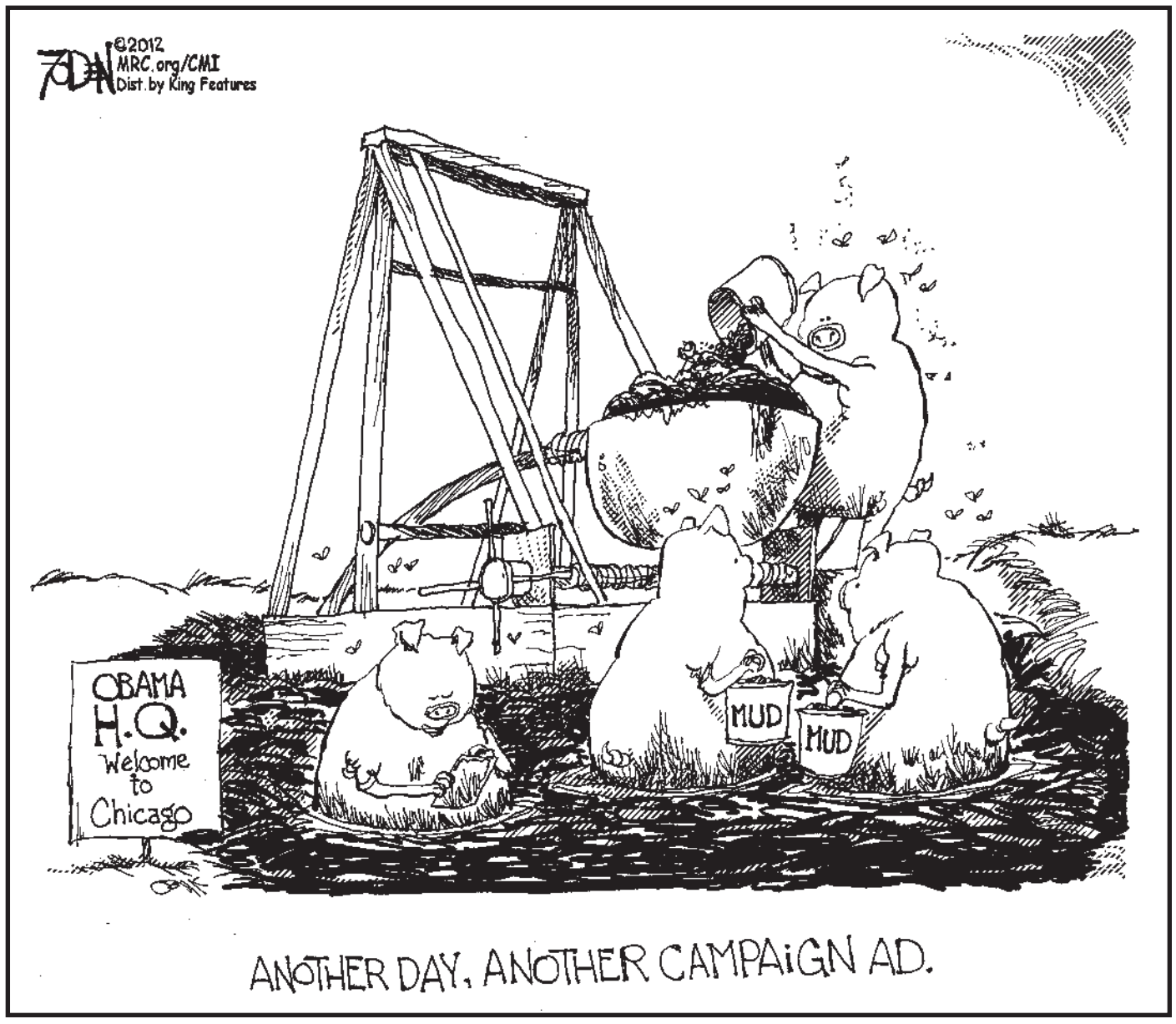


The right way to help Syria's rebels

By DALIA DASSA KAYE and DAVID KAYE
Los Angeles Times

Dalia Dassa Kaye is a senior political scientist at Rand Corp. and a 2011-12 visiting fellow at the UCLA Burkle Center for International Relations. David Kaye, a State Department lawyer from 1995 to 2005, is a professor at the UC Irvine School of Law. They wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

As diplomatic options for ending the conflict in Syria have failed, calls to arm and provide air support for Syrian rebels are becoming more widespread—with several senators, a former Bush administration senior official and a former Obama State Department official leading the charge.

Although we share their commitment to a humanitarian end to the brutality of the Assad regime, arguments to support the rebels militarily are based on three common assumptions that do not withstand scrutiny:

■ Military support will make the war shorter and enable the rebels to win. Analysis by close observers, such as the widely respected and nonpartisan International Crisis Group, suggests that a protracted civil war based on sectarian divides would probably continue even after President Bashar Assad falls. It's not clear how outside air power or arms for the rebels would quell such sectarian conflict (and no one is talking about sending ground troops).

As a result, a clear-cut military victory that ends the bloodshed seems increasingly unlikely, with or without U.S. support. To the contrary, outside military involvement may only increase the incentives for Russia and Iran to continue to support the regime now and its remnants after Assad goes.

■ Increased and direct military assistance to the rebels will expand U.S. influence after Assad falls.Pro-interventionists often argue that staying out of the Syrian conflict will lead the opposition to resent and resist U.S. influence after Assad falls, throwing the opposition into the sway of less liberal influences. But, just as in other conflicts in which the United States has lent support, military assistance may not buy us long-term political influence.

In any event, while rebel groups may resent being turned down by the Americans now, it is hard to imagine they would turn their backs on U.S. support that is likely to stream in quickly after Assad is gone. Moreover, what alternative partner would be as attractive to a new Syrian government as the United States? The Russians and Iranians, with their unwavering support for Assad, have all but written off their prospects for ties with future leaders.

■ American military support will stem al-Qaida's growing influence.

A more likely outcome is that a U.S. military role would bring extremists more, not less, support. Al-Qaida would be happy to exploit U.S. support for more liberal secular opposition groups as a way to taint those factions and erode their influence among the Syrian population. And how can we be sure that American weapons don't make their way into the hands of extremist elements within the opposition?

It may very well be that, in the heat of struggle, most Syrian opposition fighters and an array of civil society activists want U.S. military support. And we are not ruling out logistic or even military support of a humanitarian nature if the situation drastically deteriorates. But the demand for U.S. arms now doesn't make it the right option, for the activists or for the United States. The risks are high, something even the supporters of arming the rebels acknowledge, without sufficient evidence that such efforts would prove effective.

It's also important to remember that military might isn't the only way to support the activists and fighters. The Obama administration, far from sitting on its hands, as Sen. John McCain and his colleagues allege, has led international efforts to isolate and sanction those most responsible for the regime's violence, and those efforts—along with diplomacy to bring Russia and China along—should be strengthened.

The State Department and others are already working with Syrians to prepare for a post-Assad world. Even there, however, U.S. policy should have a light touch, focused on encouraging Syrians—especially those within the country—to begin building a pluralistic polity, embracing and empowering its many ethnic groups while being governed by the rule of law. Sunni Muslim leaders especially should be encouraged to embrace those minorities most fearful of Assad's ouster, especially the Alawites.

American influence flows not only from our weapons but from the concrete assistance we can provide after the uprising, such as

See REBELS on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Monk in Mongolia, Macho in Manchuria

By JAIME R. VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Former PSS teacher Jaime Vergara now teaches at Hang Gong Hang Tian Da Zue, Shenyang Aerospace University and is currently traveling in north Inner Mongolia in the prefecture of Hulunbeier.

Our Mukden-to-Manzhouli trek intended visits to the landscape of Nei Menggu with the misconceived notion that I would keep an eye on its Muslim character. I was mistaken.

On the way up, we identified Qiqihar as decidedly Muslim on the basis of our historical prejudice and naiveté. Other than having one of the oldest Mosques in China, way before the Japanese renamed the place Tsitsihar, the Mongolian influence has already been driven into oblivion by the predominant southern Han in the area.

For geography buffs, our route has been from Shenyang to the Russian-looking shi (city) of Manzhouli, wandering to Hulun lake, Gen He of the Ewanki reindeer herders, E'erguna and its wetland, Shi Wei by the Amur, Moer Duga and Man Dui in the middle of the Xing'an range, then Mo He, the northernmost city of China.

In the grasslands, romantic figures of horse-riding Mongolians now dressed like their Texas counterparts and Hollywood stereotypes, herded sheep and cattle, along with motorbike-mounted cowboys and herders, as well as 4-wheel drive LEV lookalikes, jacked-up pick-ups, and their fancy SUV counterparts. Some folks in Europe and Japan-Korea are making lots of jiao (a tenth of a renminbi) out of my BBQ lamb sticks!

> In the grasslands, romantic figures of horse-riding Mongolians now dressed like their Texas counterparts and Hollywood stereotypes, herded sheep and cattle, along with motorbike-mounted cowboys and herders, as well as 4-wheel drive LEV lookalikes, jacked-up pick-ups, and their fancy SUV counterparts. Some folks in Europe and Japan-Korea are making lots of jiao (a tenth of a renminbi) out of my BBQ lamb sticks!

We kept a monkish reverence to Mother Nature. She did not disappoint our adulation. The grassland around Manzhouli, Hailar, and Qiqihar are worth their value in yurts, the new standard vinyl covered ones sprouting like mushrooms in the grass, duly insulated for southern tourists' winter occupation who yearn the experience of living in modern comforts in the wild!

At a distance outside of Hailar are the numerous power-generating coal-fired plants with their mounds of black carbon heaped the size of mountain hills the size of Saipan, plus another Kagman to boot. To their credit, some of the heaped plant tailings are terraced and planted with trees.

The birch and pine that keep reindeers and the teepee dwelling Ewanaki outside of Gen He are organized around a magical Aoluguna, more a product of the theatre than the revival of aboriginal life style. The wetland in E'erguna is kept at a distance from tourists who view it from afar on strategically located platforms without intruding into the eco-system.

The Argun River an hour's drive from Moer Duga developed boating and rafting facilities on calm water that is an inch of comfortable temperature over icy waters even in mid summer. The elders in these parts gather in the morning mist around the parks to do their Tai Qi Quan while the matronly perform their line dancing in the early evenings, with some still doing their Dong Bei dance of the colorful fans and "flirtatious" moves in the city center.

The MTV set prop their own boom box and in many locations, Michael Jackson is very much alive, and mimickers of western rap groups, already playing Chinese versions of their music, are not left behind. The popularity of Huang Feng Chuang Qi, the duo known in the west as Phoenix Legend, particularly to the Houston Rockets, already have their music and dance beat in public squares.

An hour by bus from Mo He are two tourist destinations: a Buddhist pagoda (which we skipped) and the forest reserve in Bei Ji Cun, soon-to-be a combination of Adirondacks, Mackinac, Grosse Point, and Cape Cod, by the looks of the luxurious tourist facilities under earnest construction. It was as good a place for us to leave the green world in the care of the new breed of summer mosquitoes!

We headed toward the colorful metropolitan center of Harbin with its 12-some schools of higher learning. Silently a contemplative monk for more than a week, we decided to feign a testosterone-filled masculinity ala MexTex machismo.

Harbin previously dubbed as the Moscow of the Far East, we suspected, have Kiev's prolific procreativity gone wild. Half the matrons in shorts on net stockings, and mini-skirted University girls, are blondes; the rest are brunettes. This has nothing to do with Slavic and Nordic DNA. It is purely the triumph of Lady Clairol. I was not allured.

Which is just as well. Inured from mosquitoes that festered Zhongguoren, I remained undisturbed throughout the whole trip, but on our last day, we might have invited a mean hybrid cousin to bite through my socks. By the time I got to Harbin, my ankle ballooned the size of a muskmelon. Maimed by a mosquito in Manchuria is a more fitting title to the second half of this reflection. Hope t'aint tainted with the West Nile virus!

Happily, London 2012 Olympics was on TV, and though CCTV kept playing events where China got the gold, there was enough to keep us glued to the tube.

The MoHe-to-Harbin marathon 19-hour ride was too reminiscent of '60s bus rides from frontier Aparri to Manila with luggage racks bulging, our 110-seat passenger rail caboose easily accommodated 200 souls with some seated but asleep on their grain sack luggage on the floor; the Harbin-to-Shenyang leg, on the other hand, with LV luggage and Gucci bag patrons, was a relief. The train heading all the way to Beijing had business class folks, culminating our Mukden to Manzhouli journey in comfort and peace, in space, and also, in our mind!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Disregarding the rule of law in the CNMI

It is indeed shocking and embarrassing to learn this week that the CNMI attorney general, our chief legal officer, was formally charged with violating several laws of the commonwealth—the laws that he swore to uphold and defend.

Whenever government leaders, such as the attorney general, are charged with violating the laws that they are entrusted to uphold and defend, we can only surmise that they have violated the public trust bestowed on them. And because they have violated the public trust, they have no business remaining in public office. If they fail to leave their office voluntarily, they should either be removed or impeached immediately.

The recent incident involving the criminal charges filed against the attorney general appear to be only one of a number of highly questionable decisions and actions that have been made or have taken place in the CNMI government over the past several years. High government officials have on many occasions acted in apparent or actual disregard or violation of either the civil or criminal laws of the commonwealth. We need not go into specific details regarding the questionable decisions and actions taken by commonwealth government officials, for we have been reading about the shenanigans going on in public office for many years now.

For example, we were alarmed when we read about the number of questionable procurement practices by the Commonwealth government about two years ago. Our procurement laws and regulations were either not adhered to or were just simply ignored. We have also been deeply concerned with the questionable and corrupt hiring practices that have been going on in the commonwealth government. We learn about these misdeeds from reading the papers or watching the news. We have learned of public employees being fired because of apparent disloyalty to a political party or party boss, or because of political party affiliation. Individual merit or ability in government employment is not a prerequisite.

The practice in the personnel service and Commonwealth civil service system (intended by the Constitution to be a merit system for the hiring public employees) has been a mockery of everything that we believe to be decent and honorable in a merit-based civil service system.

The highly questionable hiring practices of the Commonwealth government have for many years now created an atmosphere of fear for literally every employee working for the government. A failure to participate in political party functions, for example, jeopardizes one's continuing employment by the government. So long as the hiring government official does not technically contradict the letter of the law, the hiring authority may continue engaging in questionable and unfair hiring practices, i.e. based on party affiliation and blind loyalty. On occasion, such hiring practices have been carried out in violation of personnel rules and regulations. Only when a "whistle-blower" with the courage to speak up comes forth do we become aware of the violation of law that has occurred.

At a time when the Commonwealth is going through so much economic difficulty, the last thing we need is for our public officials themselves to add further difficulty to our lives by continuing to inject politics and political considerations in governmental actions and decision-making. Sadly, this has been the case in the commonwealth for many years now, such that our leaders have begun to think that these questionable practices are now the "norm" in terms of how the government conducts business on behalf of the people. Public officials thus have to be constantly reminded that all questionable political practices in government will not be condoned and that those responsible will, sooner or later, be held accountable for their questionable and unlawful actions.

Politics, for some strange reason, reared its ugly head in government immediately after we began self-government in 1978. "Statesmanship" is a word that was thrown out from the lexicon of the commonwealth government. The intrusion of politics and political considerations in government has contributed to the failure of our leaders to govern the Commonwealth wisely. Unless we correct this political disease in government and stop the corrupt governmental practices that have been going on, the rule of law in the commonwealth will continue to be compromised by our own leaders for their own aggrandizement. I had always thought that we are a "government of law" and not of men.

But I guess this is not the case in the commonwealth, based on the way our leaders have been acting. It is high time the people take action to stop all corrupt practices in government, starting at the top. Holding our public officials accountable is a fresh start, for a change.

Jose S. Dela Cruz
Navy Hill

REBELS

From Page 6

security sector reform, humanitarian and economic assistance, and technical and legal training. Being a partisan to the conflict through military support—causing us to be seen, for instance, as an opponent of key "losing" ethnic groups—would make such assistance less effective.

As they move beyond the shadow of four decades of Assads, Syrians will have to decide how to go forward, such as what institutions to build or rebuild and how to do it, what principles should guide a new government, how to replace authoritarianism and corruption with the rule of law, and whether to hold accountable those responsible for the violence of recent months and the decades of abusive rule by the regime. We should be there to support those efforts, but it would be infinitely more complicated if we enter with the force of arms.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. South winds 5 to 15 mph.
▲88° ▼77°

SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.
▲88 ° ▼76°

MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°

TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°

WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°

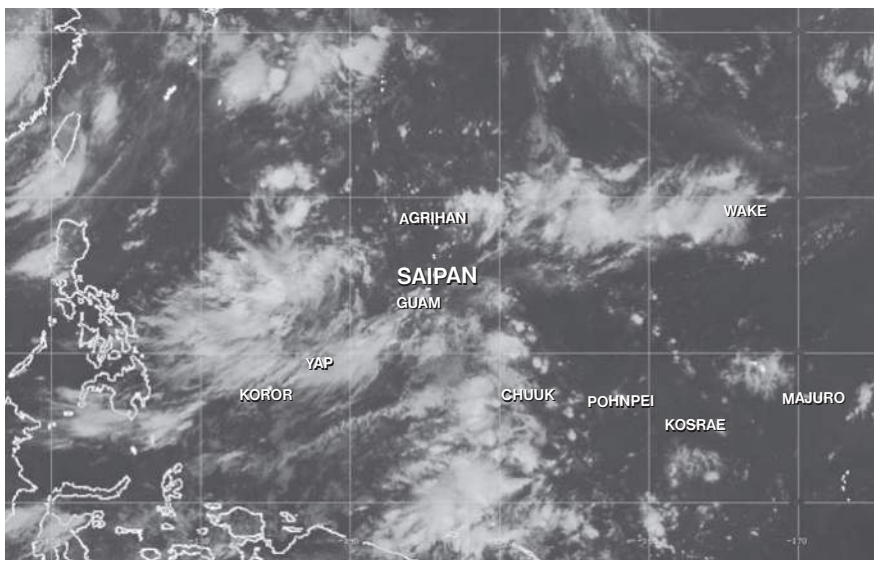
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼78
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼75
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼76
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲62	▼56
Beijing	Showers	▲81	▼69
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲89	▼83
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼75
London	Showers	▲74	▼61
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲87	▼69
Manila	Thundershowers	▲85	▼78
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲61	▼43
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88	▼79
New York	Thundershowers	▲85	▼70
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲89	▼78
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲78	▼60
Pusan	Thunderstorms	▲89	▼77
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲91	▼70
Salem	Sunny	▲90	▼60
San Francisco	Sunny	▲74	▼58
Seoul	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	▲89	▼79
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲89	▼72

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, AUGUST 10, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends eastward from 15N130 through a weak circulation at 14N141E then curves across Guam to end near 11N154E.Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms west of the Mariana Islands across Yap to just north of Koror are between 18N and 8N from 130E to 142E. Another circulation centered southwest of Chuuk near 2N150E is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between the equator and 12N from 145E to 152E. Low-level convergence is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms west of Wake Island between 18N and 22N from 146E to 165E. A surface trough crossing the date line is causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms east of Majuro or east of a line from 15N180 to 5N176E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:03 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
9:52 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
5:13 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
9:34 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:02 AM	6:43 PM
Sunday	6:02 AM	6:42 PM
Monday	6:02 AM	6:41 PM
Tuesday	6:02 AM	6:41 PM
Wednesday	6:02 AM	6:40 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Saturday	12:16 AM	1:26 PM
Sunday	1:02 AM	2:16 PM
Monday	1:51 AM	3:05 PM
Tuesday	2:42 AM	3:53 PM
Wednesday	3:34 AM	4:40 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES
- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT
- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY
- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 14, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:30am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

0Z606/120	2:20am	8:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/120	2:50am	8:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

0Z606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
0Z604/703	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
0Z604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 3, 5 via SPN

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)

UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL286	7:40pm	12:15am +1	2, 4, 6, 7
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

0Z119/606	9:30am	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z119/606	9:30am	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

0Z603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
0Z704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

0Z724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5071	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English
Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro
Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro
Parish office hours:
Monday-Saturday
8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm)
Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated)
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass
Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm.
Telephone no. 285-0273

Santa Soledad Mission Parish
Monday: 6pm
Tuesday: 6pm
Wednesday: 6pm
Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass)
Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass)
Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am,
Saturday: 4-6pm
Telephone no. 256-4568

Saint Jude Parish
Monday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 7am
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm
Office is close every Thursday and Saturday
Telephone no. 288-0007

San Antonio Parish
Monday-Friday 6pm
Saturday: 6pm
Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children)
Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm
Close on Sunday and Monday

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English
Monday and Tuesday:6am Chamorro
Wednesday:6pm English
Thursday: 6am Chamorro
Friday: 6am English
Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog
Sunday: anticipated mass

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am
Monday-Friday: 7pm
Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass
Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament
Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass
Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass
Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm
Thursday: day off
Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm
Telephone no. 234-6991

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English
Monday: 6pm English
Tuesday: 6pm English
Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil
Thursday: 6pm English
Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays)
Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass
Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm
Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143

San Vicente Parish
Monday-Friday: 6pm,
Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month)
Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm
Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm
Parish office hours: daily 9-11am
Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 8am
Monday: 6pm (1st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm)
Tuesday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm
Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm

PROTESTANT

Amen Church
Sunday : 10am, 1pm, 5pm Wednesday : 7pm Friday Prayer : 9pm Bible Study : 4pm (Tue) Music Practice : 5pm (Sat) Korean class: 3:30pm (Thu) Visitation : 10am(Fri, Sat) Outreach : 8am (First Sat) Tel. No. 285-2121, 256-2221 Email : oseyo@daum.net

Born Again Christian
(Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm
Telephone no. 234-6026/27

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services:
Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm
Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm
Telephone no. 235-8540

Church 360
Suite 103 of Marianas Business Plaza (1st floor of former Nauru Building).
Contact www.church360saipan.org, info@church360saipan.org, or call 888-2116
Celebration Service: Sunday at 10:15am
Prayer Fellowship: Wednesday at 6:00pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am
Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm
Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm
Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm
Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm
As Perdido Road
Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 235-8590
Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 10:00am
Place: Garapan, Plumeria Road,
Call 285-6081 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am
Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service)
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio
Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week)
Telephone no. 322-5680

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (English)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church
Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa
(east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral)
Worship Service: 9:00am
Children's Sunday School: 9:00am
Choir Practice: 8:00am
Singspiration: 8:30am
Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm
Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158

Immanuel Methodist Church
(Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)
(Korean Congregation)
Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm
Wednesday evening service: 8pm
Daily morning prayer: 5am

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am,
Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm,
Wednesday: 7:30-9pm

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9:20am
Sunday Adult: 11am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Living Hope Church of the Nazarene
Isa Drive, I-Denni Hill across from Ponderosa Heights
Bible Studies for all ages: Sunday at 10:00 am
Worship: Sunday at 11:00 am
Pastor Dave Bucher, 256-1142

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service: 10 am at Seventh Day Adventist church on Quartermaster Rd.
Wednesday Service: 7 pm at Fina Sisu Housing FS#1
Contact Nick for more info: 287-1661

Marianas Bible Fellowship Center
Sunday School: 9-9:30am
Divine Worship: 9:30-11am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch)
Sunday worship 8:30am
Sunday evening 7:00pm
Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm
San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel
Telephone: 789-7566

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 10-11am
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm
Thursday Bible Study: 7pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church Koblerville
Sunday services:
Sunday school 9:00am
Morning worship 10:00am
Evening service 6:00pm
Wednesday evening bible study 7:00pm

Chinese services
Sunday morning 10:00am
Sunday evening 7:00pm

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church.
Telephone No: 285-4661/2

Thy Word Ministries Saipan
Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi

Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian
Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Victorious Christian Church
(Formerly God's Victorious Army)
Sunday 8:30am to 10:30am - Worship Service
Monday 7:00 pm - Women's Fellowship
Tuesday nights - Home cellgroup
Wednesday - 7:30pm to 9:00pm Mid Week Service
Friday 7:30pm to 9:00pm Prayer Meeting
Saturday nights - Praise and worship practice
Last Friday of the month - Overnight praying meeting
Pastor Brendon Perez - Tel# 2359246

Editor's Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call *Saipan Tribune* at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email editor@saipantribune.com.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Aug. 11, 2002

Gov. Babauta says he's far from violating law on salary cap issue
Gov. Juan N. Babauta clarified that, far from violating any laws on the salary cap issue, he is still very much within the parameters set by the Salary Compensation Act. Babauta explained that, under that Act, if the Governor wishes to hire a person at a salary that exceeds the ceilings set by law, the law requires him to write to the Legislature and justify why he should hire somebody at a salary higher than the default limit of $50,000 per annum. "And that's what I have done with the four or five people that I have hired whose salaries exceed the cap. I have followed the law and written to the Legislature and all of those requests for exemption are in the Legislature and until such time that the Legislature acts on it, there is no violation of the law," Babauta said.

NMI gets more food stamp funding
The United States and CNMI governments have signed the Memorandum of Understanding that would authorize the release of more than $7 million in aid to low-income families in the Commonwealth under the Nutrition Assistance Program. Gov. Juan N. Babauta and Cultural Affairs Secretary Juan L. Babauta signed the MOU on behalf of the CNMI. The agreement involves an estimated $7.1 million grant that will cover the full request made by NAP for financial year 2003. The grant will come from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Services. According to the DCCA Secretary Babauta, the federal funding made available to the CNMI will be of significant help, especially to families facing financial difficulties.

Aug. 11, 2004

MPLA stalls for more time in House probe
The Marianas Public Lands Authority has asked for an extension on its deadline to submit certain documents to the House of Representatives' investigation committee. Committee chair Rep. Clyde Norita said that MPLA, which was required to submit documents last Friday following a subpoena, asked for the deadline to be extended to Aug. 11. The Department of Health, meantime, which also received a subpoena, was able to turn in the required documents as scheduled, the lawmaker said.

Turner pushes for changes to proposed PTI board
Commonwealth Telecommunications Commission acting director Adam Turner recommended changes to the prospective board members list submitted to the CTC by Pacific Telecoms Inc., the company that intends to acquire local operations of the telecom facility from Micronesian Telecommunications Corp. Turner's recommendations incorporated the grounds raised by Gov. Juan N. Babauta and CNMI consumer counsel Brian Caldwell, pointing out several alleged deficiencies in the PTI submission. He clarified, though, that his opinion is not that of the CTC, which has yet to decide on the submission. Turner said PTI's prospective board has no participation of local residents and does not appear to be independent.

Aug. 11, 2005

Senate OKs extension of alien
The Senate passed a bill yesterday that aims to extend for two years the employment of nonresident workers at the Department of Public Health and a one-year extension for both the Department of Public Works and Commonwealth Utilities Corp. The Senate passed House Bill 14-344 during its session yesterday on Tinian. The bill originally covered only the DPH but during the session, the senators voted to include DPW and CUC. The Senate approval only meant an extension of two years for DPH, instead of 10 years as requested by the department. Also, the Senate did not agree to the DPH's request for a two-year contract for each worker.

120 homeowners take part in energy saving promotion
Their lights are on, but their electric bills will be going down for 120 CNMI homeowners who bought Energy Star ® Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs this Saturday at Ace Hardware in Susupe and YCO True Value Hardware in Garapan. Under the public-private sector partnership to conserve energy, the energy star CFLs were on sale at Ace and YCO Hardware and the CNMI Energy Division was on hand to give away one free CFL for every CFL purchased from the participating hardware as part of the Energy Star ® Awareness Project. "The Buy 1/Get 1 Free Energy Star Awareness CFL promotion was off to a great start and was very successful," said Energy director Thelma B. Inos.

Maharlika

Community lends helping hand to PH flood victims

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

AP

A volunteer cuts sausages using can lid as they prepare food for flood victims inside a crowded evacuation center in Quezon city, north of Manila, Philippines on Thursday Aug. 9, 2012. Over 2 million people were affected by Manila's worst flooding since 2009 as more than half of the sprawling metropolis of 12 million was submerged at the peak, and schools and offices have been closed for days.

Anatalia de Guzman, a 53-year-old overseas Filipino worker on Saipan, was terrified and felt helpless when she received the news yesterday that her sisters and their children needed evacuation as floodwaters reached the second floor of their two-story house in Cupang, Muntinlupa in the Philippines in the wake of heavy rain and floods brought by an enhanced southwest monsoon.

"I didn't know what to do. I wanted to help but I could only do so much," de Guzman told *Saipan Tribune*.

She said from Tuesday to Thursday, she knew the flood water was still manageable so her sisters stayed at their house.

"But the floodwater rose again on Friday, and it was the worst level. They said the water is now on the second floor and they needed to be evacuated as soon as possible. If they don't get out of there fast, the house might collapse on them," said de Guzman, adding that in her 23 years on Saipan, this is one of the worst news to come out from back home.

De Guzman is just one of the Filipino workers in the CNMI with families back home affected by the severe flooding in the Philippines this week.

But in difficult times like this, Filipinos and other community members in the CNMI always lend a helping hand and show their spirit of volunteerism.

Bong Malasarte, United Filipino Organization president, said UFO is spearheading a fund drive called "Sagip Habagat" to accept cash donations that will go toward flood victims through the Philippine National Red Cross.

UFO is the umbrella organization of some 30 Filipino groups in the CNMI.

"In times of our compatriots' needs such as this flooding, UFO is ready to help. When you watch the television, or read the news online, you could see the severe effect of the flood to a lot of families. In our own little ways, we could do something to help," Malasarte said.

He said the Philippine National Red Cross sent UFO an email this week, seeking help for the flood victims, knowing that UFO has been assisting the Philippine government in coming to the aid of those affected by disasters such as floods and typhoons.

UFO secretary Annamae Adaza and Lynn Dela Cruz said UFO has started putting donation boxes at certain stores and restaurants on Saipan for "Sagip Habagat."

Today, UFO and volunteers will also be at the Filcom Pavilion, Sabalu Market and the Marianas Business Plaza grounds to accept cash donations from those who want to help.

"Every dollar counts, and we call on community members to help if they can. This is a time when our fellow Filipinos need our help," Malasarte said.

Dela Cruz, Adaza, and Malasarte separately said that as of yesterday, these are among the stores/establishments that have UFO's Sagip Habagat donation boxes: Oche's Store in Garapan; Shirley's Coffee Shop in Garapan; Pretty Market on Middle Road; Happy Market on Middle Road; XO Market on Middle Road; and EZ Market also on Middle Road. More will be added to the list during the weekend.

For donations, contact UFO president Bong Malasarte at 287-5525, Annamae Adaza at 483-5237, or Lyn Devilles Deazeta at 989-3845.

'Shirt for a cause'

Norman del Rosario, who has been working on Saipan for 16 years, has also found a creative way to help the flood victims.

Del Rosario launched on Aug. 7 a limited edition "Pray for Philippines" shirts, proceeds of which will go toward relief efforts in the Philippines also through the Philippine National Red Cross.

"So far, the response from the community has been good," said del Rosario, art director at IT&E.

And as of yesterday, del Rosario said IT&E partnered with him in this undertaking by matching his shirt sale proceeds 100 percent, thereby doubling the funds that will be raised.

"I am thankful for IT&E and those who are helping. You not only get a shirt, you also help the flood victims," added del Rosario, owner of Konflikt Clothing.

Each shirt costs $20, and should be ordered between now and Aug. 15. The shirts come in small, medium, large, and extra large sizes.

To order limited edition "Pray for Philippines" shirts, contact Norman del Rosario at 287-2875.

About a million people in Metro Manila and Northern and Central Luzon have been displaced or otherwise affected by the heavy rainfall and flooding caused by the southwest monsoon enhanced by tropical storm Haikui, the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council said.

As of yesterday, the death toll from several days of heavy rain rose to 60.

SC junks complaint vs Carpio, says court official

By TETCH TORRES
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—The Supreme Court on Friday dismissed the disbarment complaint against acting Chief Justice Antonio Carpio.

Carpio

In a special en banc (full court) session, the high court said a Supreme Court Associate Justice could only be removed from office by impeachment as stated by the 1987 Constitution.

"We find no basis to proceed with the consideration of the Complaint-Affidavit in light of Article 11 Section 2 of the Constitution," the high court said in its two-page resolution issued Friday.

Article 11 Section 2 of the Constitution provides that "the President, the Vice-President, the members of the Supreme Court, the members of the Constitutional Commissions and the Ombudsman may be removed from office, on impeachment…"

Carpio is the most senior justice of the Supreme Court and is automatically nominated for the top judicial post.

He has been slapped with a disbarment complaint by anti-crime crusader Lauro Vizconde, who accused him of using his influence to secure appointments to essential government posts.

Vizconde also accused Carpio of lobbying for the Suprene Court's reversal of a lower court decision to convict Hubert Webb and his co-accused over the death of his wife Estrellita and daughters Carmela and Jennifer Vizconde in 1991.

The Integrated Bar of the Philippines had earlier said Carpio enjoys immunity and cannot be disbarred unless he is impeached first.

Aquino heartened by outpouring of support for flood victims

By TJ BURGONIO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—President Benigno C. Aquino III is heartened by the outpouring of support from local governments and the private sector, including oil companies, for the thousands of families displaced by floods in Metro Manila and in Central and Southern Luzon.

Mr. Aquino on Friday thanked Isabela Vice Gov. Rodolfo Albano III for donating not less than 1,000 cavans of rice and Albay Gov. Joey Salceda for dispatching 35 rescue personnel to help in areas enundated by days of relentless monsoon rain.

"If we have tragedies like this, there are many of our countrymen who go out of their way to help even without us asking for it," Mr. Aquino told evacuees in Sta. Lucia High School in Capas town, Tarlac.

His remarks were broadcast live by government radio.

The President also expressed gratitude to San Miguel Corp. and the Yokohama tire company for their donations as well as Shell and Petron for withholding planned increases in the prices of petroleum products in an act of commiseration with the flood victims.

Aquino

"The good news is that while the crude prices in the world market are rising, companies like Shell and Petron volunteered, I repeat, volunteered, to delay any scheduled increase in the prices of their products to commiserate with our countrymen. In effect, they'd lose some profit just to make us feel we're not alone," he said. "We thank all of them."

Mr. Aquino said he expected more international help to pour in.

Mr. Aquino, who helicoptered to Tarlac with some Cabinet members, told the 105 families of evacuees in Barangay Sta. Lucia that the government has adequate funds to address emergencies like this, and was prepared to attend to all their needs.

Quoting Public Works Secretary Rogelio Singson, Mr. Aquino said the Bangot Bridge would be fortified instead of being replaced, drawing cheers.

"We're looking for permanent solutions. The (proposed) Balog-Balog Dam is designed for irrigation and flood control, too. Hopefully, within two weeks the plan will be presented to us so that the process can be started, and eventually it will be built, and floods can be mitigated," he said.

The construction of the P15-billion mega dam in Tarlac was scheduled to start in July. It will be 113.5 meters' high from the riverbed to the crest and will have a water storage capacity of 625 million cubic meters, according to irrigation officials.

Expected to be operational by 2016, the dam is projected to boost palay yield by 116.7 thousand metric tons per year and tilapia production by 94,000 metric tons per year.

Mr. Aquino and his party first stopped at the Apulid evacuation center Paniqui, Tarlac, where he spoke for a few minutes.

The party arrived in the evacuation center in Paniqui minutes late after heavy rain forced their helicopters to land at the Luisita exit of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway at around 9 a.m. From there, the President and his party motored to the evacuation center.

Capas and Paniqui were among eight Tarlac towns submerged in floodwaters.

Some 5,000 families were displaced by the floods in the President's home province.

Clear skies reveal messy scope of PH flood

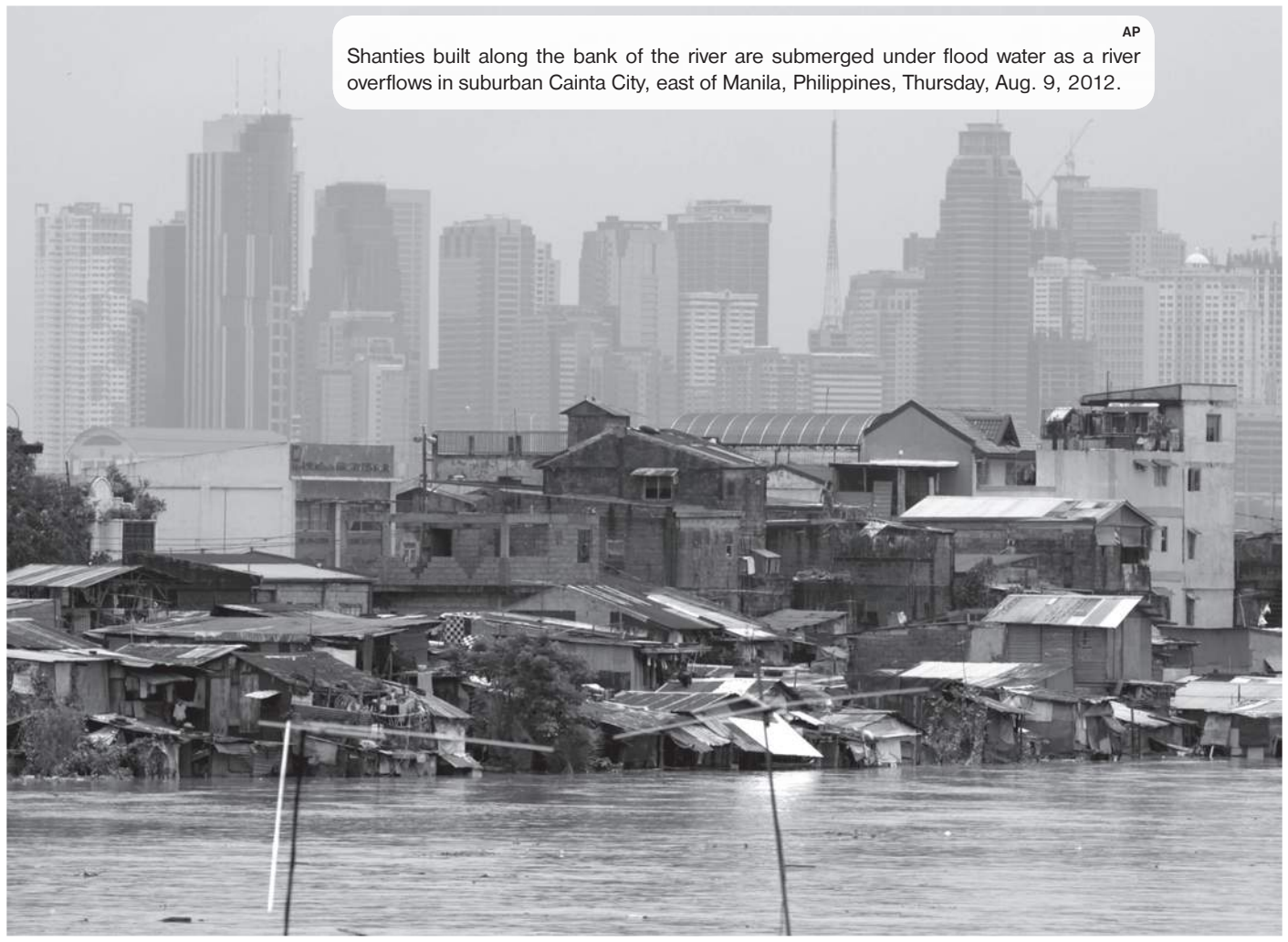
MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Thousands of Filipinos shoveled muck and debris from flood-ravaged homes, shops and roads under a shining sun Thursday after nearly two weeks of non-stop rain shut down the capital and forced hundreds of thousands to flee from the deluge.

At least 60 people died and over 2 million people were affected by Manila's worst flooding since 2009. More than half of the sprawling metropolis of 12 million was submerged at the peak, and schools and offices have been closed for days.

Under a hot sun Thursday as the rain finally stopped, residents began to fix disheveled homes and stores in flood-hit communities that resembled a wasteland littered with mud-caked garbage. Some of the displaced in still-crowded evacuation centers have begun to trickle back to neighborhoods, where floodwaters have subsided, Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman said, but more than 314,000 people remained in hundreds of evacuation centers in Manila and outlying provinces.

"We were totally washed out," said Rudy Aquino, a flower shop owner along Araneta Avenue, where more than three meters (10 feet) of rampaging floodwaters swamped everything and carried all sorts of trash and even a wayward cargo truck.

Aquino, whose shop also was hit by the more massive flash-flood in 2009, told The Associated Press he was moving to a safer location when the deluge engulfed his business on Tuesday and again late Wednesday when floodwaters rose again. As he tried to rise from the latest onslaught, a fresh supply of red orchids arrived at his shop



AP

Shanties built along the bank of the river are submerged under flood water as a river overflows in suburban Cainta City, east of Manila, Philippines, Thursday, Aug. 9, 2012.

Thursday as he and staff were cleaning up.

Even though the weather has cleared, the government was busy with rescue and relief work in the worst-hit areas, especially along swollen rivers and coastal communities. In hard-hit Marikina city in the capital, rescuers on rubber boats floated down still-flooded streets to reach thousands of residents marooned in submerged houses along the Marikina River.

After the rains stopped, thousands of shoppers descended on grocery stores to stack up on food and other supplies.

The flooding has rattled the nerves of tens of thousands of people who had to be evacuated for the second time in as many days after returning home during a brief respite of dry weather early Wednesday.

"They are hard-headed. Now that the waters are high again, they got scared and they are calling us to be rescued," said police Senior Inspector Abner Perdosa, who led a team of rescuers in orange shirts helping residents across waist-deep muddy waters into government-run shelters.

Minerva Mercader, a beauty parlor worker, said she and her children had returned to their house near a river in suburban Quezon City when the weather cleared Wednesday, only to rush back to a Roman Catholic church when the waters rose again.

"I got scared because the sky was so dark and there was this downpour," said Mercader, who was dripping wet from the rain as she stepped into Santo Domingo Church with her three children.

The death toll jumped to 60 late Thursday after casualty reports from the provinces reached the Civil Defense Office. Most were drowning victims. At least six were missing.

Of the total killed, 26 were from metropolitan Manila, including nine killed in a landslide in suburban Quezon City. Classes were suspended this week as cities declared a state of calamity, and government offices were slowly reopening. The U.S. Embassy remained closed Thursday.

PH troops assault breakaway rebel lairs

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Hundreds of troops, backed by assault helicopters, launched offensives on two strongholds of a breakaway Muslim guerrilla group in southern Philippines after they attacked at least 14 military camps and outposts, officials said Thursday.

The brazen attacks since Sunday left at least four soldiers dead including one who was beheaded, while at least two rebels were killed in the counteroffensive, according to the government. But a regional army spokesman, Col. Prudencio Asto, said the rebel death toll had reached 15 by Thursday, citing intelligence reports. This could not be independently confirmed.

The rebel group broke off last year from the larger Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which is involved in peace talks with the government. Known as the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Movement, it opposes the negotiations, and has vowed to continue fighting for an independent homeland for minority Muslims in the south of the predominantly Roman Catholic nation.

The group's leader Ameril Umbra Kato had a stroke in November, plunging his group into uncertainty, but the renewed fighting indicates he still has firepower.

Governor Mujiv Hataman said the military and police have strengthened security in public areas in a five-province Muslim region that he heads to prevent diversionary attacks like bombings from Kato's fighters.

AP

Armored Personnel Carriers are deployed to augment troops at Ampatuan town, Maguindanao province, southern Philippines on Monday, Aug. 6, 2012.

"We cannot allow any group to carry out brazen attacks and get away with it," Hataman said.

Troops were moving cautiously to avoid widespread disruptions amid the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, he said. More than 25,000 residents have been displaced by the fighting, according to the Office of Civil Defense.

The fighting this week is among the worst since 2008, when the peace talks bogged down, igniting clashes between Moro Islamic Liberation Front forces and government troops in Maguindanao and outlying provinces. That fighting killed hundreds and displaced 750,000 people before the two sides agreed to a cease-fire.

The government says the attacks by Kato's forces on 14 military camps, detachments and outposts were meant to derail its negotiations with MILF, which are being brokered by Malaysia. Still, the talks resumed in Malaysia Wednesday.

Military officials said army assaults were focused on a vast marshland and two abandoned villages in Maguindanao's Datu Unsay town where the breakaway rebels have taken position. Army troops, backed by artillery and tank fire, have advanced slowly in areas rigged with booby traps.

A key Maguindanao highway which was closed down after rebel sniper fire killed two passing commuters earlier in the week was briefly reopened and then shut again Thursday due to lingering threats, regional deputy military commander Romeo Santiago Nebres said.

Indian man escapes from militants in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—An Indian man escaped from al-Qaida-linked militants Friday after being held captive in the southern Philippines for nearly 14 months.

Bijo Kolara Veetil escaped before dawn Friday as his Abu Sayyaf captors were preparing breakfast, said Sulu provincial police chief Antonio Freyra.

A heavily bearded Veetil, 37, later told reporters at a hospital that after he slipped out of the militants' encampment in the hinterlands of Patikul township, a villager brought him to a provincial official, who handed him to police. He was then taken to the hospital.

Veetil, who worked as an operations manager for a garment company in Kuwait, said he was kidnapped in June 2011 while visiting his wife's family in Patikul.

The kidnappers demanded about 300,000 pesos ($7,100) in ransom, but his family refused to pay. He said he wasn't harmed because he is a Muslim.

The Abu Sayyaf is notorious for kidnappings, beheadings and bombings, and is on the U.S. list of terrorist groups. The group is believed to currently be holding Australian, Malaysian and Japanese nationals in their jungle hideouts in the south.

A veteran Jordanian TV reporter, Baker Atyani, and his two Filipino crew members are still in the custody of the militants they had gone to interview two months ago.

Philippine gold miner says shutdown to hit profit

MANILA, Philippines (AP—The Philippines' largest gold and copper producer says its full-year earnings will drop as its mine in northern Benguet province remains shut after waste leaked from a storage pond.

Philex Mining Corp. said Thursday operations at its Padcal mine will remain suspended for some time, until the safety and integrity of its tailing pond is assured.

The company says each month of suspension will cost 220 million pesos ($5.3 million).

Mine operations were suspended on August 1 and the leak was plugged within 48 hours.

Insurance would mitigate losses but Philex Chairman Manuel Pangilinan says full-year earnings would be "materially impacted."

Philex' made a net profit of 2.11 billion pesos ($50.6 million) in the first half of the year. Net profit for 2011 was 5.57 billion pesos ($133.6 million).

Samu't Sari

HAPPY TRAILS

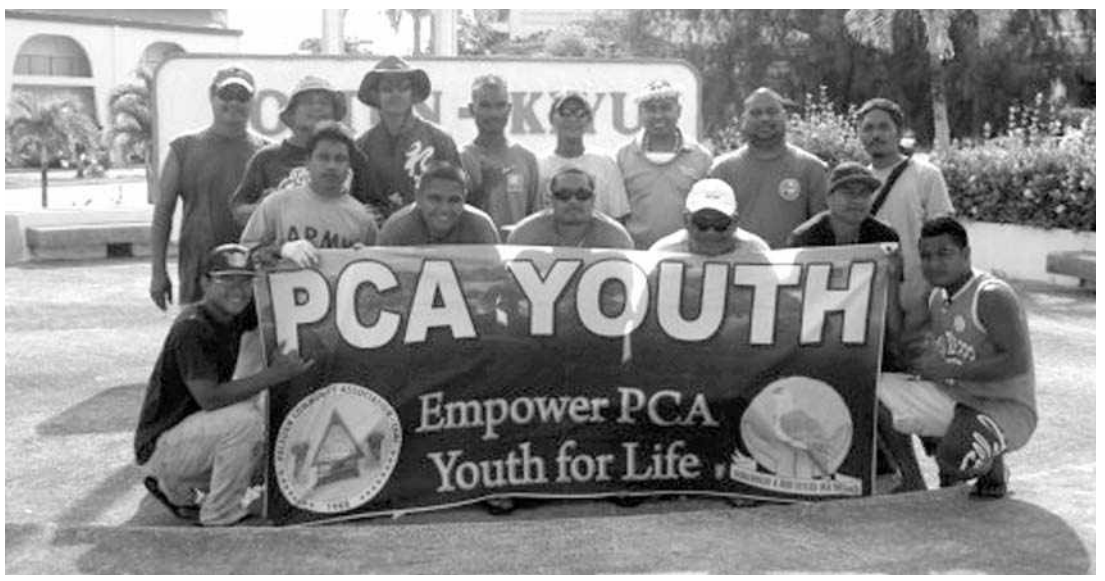
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bon voyage to Belle Engelskjen, fourth from right, who left Saipan for good last Aug. 4. Bon voyage and may God bless you always. From your Saipan Community Church family.

LONE DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATE

MONETH G. DEPOSA

The Democratic Party's sole candidate for this year's mid-term elections, Jesse Torres (center), poses with his family and supporters after filing his candidacy Wednesday at the Commonwealth Election Commission in Susupe. Torres is seeking a House seat for Precinct 5.



THANK YOU

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's management and staff is very thankful to the Palau Community Association-Youth for the ground cleaning services they provided last Aug. 7 as part of their community services. Back row, Dennis M., adviser, Nizer M., adviser., Beduch N., Alonzo B., Hanz, Mr. John Gonzales, Josh B., and Frank B. Front row: V.J. Cabrera, president; Damian B.; Brell Y.; Mario B., HRO, Meresebang, adviser; Damon B., and Marvy N.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Wishing our mother, grandmother, and great grandmother Chong A. Torres a happy, happy 78th birthdays as she celebrates her special day today. We ask the lord to continue blessing you with many more strong and healthy years and many, many more blessed and happy to come. You are the best and greatest gift ever and we are very blessed, honored, and grateful in having you in our lives. Your beautiful smile, kindness, great personality, big heart, and the list never ends, makes you look younger and younger each and everyday. Enjoy your special day Mom with so much love and happiness. We love you Mom.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 9th birthday to our lovely daughter Maxine Alexandra Q. Rabago. May you stay as smart and sweet as you are. Greetings from Mama, Papa, and your little sister Mikaela.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Your birth was one of our favorite blessings that Lord has given us through the years. Happy 4th birthday. Israel " I.J. " Jr. De Leon. Greetings from Mommy Jen, Daddy Israel, Grandpa Jimmy, and Grandma Jesusa.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to a sweet, loving, caring, beautiful woman Maryrose "Momo" Matsunaga! Hope you have a wonderful weekend full of laughter, love, more blessings, your favorite foods, and many more precious memories! Greetings coming out from all your friends and family.

GODSPEED

Former Hafadai Beach Hotel accountant Marlon Estigoy left Saipan for good last Aug. 4. Have a great vacation in the Philippines and good luck and God bless on your new challenges in the U.S. mainland soon. Greetings from your Saipan friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Marlon Estigoy is flanked by Hafadai Beach Hotel staff Susan Gaspar, left, and Didith Julve.

Business

Now arriving on time: Your flight and suitcase

NEW YORK (AP)—U.S. airlines are more punctual and less likely to lose your bag than at any time in more than two decades.

Travelers still have to put up with packed planes, rising fees and unpredictable security lines, but they are late to fewer business meetings and are not missing as many chances to tuck their kids into bed.

Nearly 84 percent of domestic flights arrived within 15 minutes of their scheduled time in the first half of the year—the best performance since the government started keeping track in 1988.

The improvement over the first six months of 2011, when 77 percent of flights were on time, is mostly a result of good weather and fewer planes in the sky because of the weak economy.

Airlines are also doing a better job of handling bags. Fewer than three suitcases per 1,000 passengers were reported lost, damaged or delayed from January through June, a record low.

The two areas of improvement are related: When flights are late, bags often miss their connection.

"My flights this year have been way better," said Amanda Schuier, a sales manager for a Kansas City, Mo., trucking supplier who flies roughly four times a week. "In the past six months, I've only had two delays."

If the current pace continues, the airlines will beat their best full-year performance, recorded in 1991, when nearly 83 percent of flights arrived on time. The worst full year was 2000, when just 73 percent of flights arrived on time, according to an Associated Press analysis of Bureau of Transportation Statistics data.

The worst year for baggage handling was 1989, when nearly eight suitcases per 1,000 passengers were reported late, lost or damaged.

There are still problems. About one out of every six flights is late—and that's after airlines have adjusted schedules to account for congestion, said airline consultant Michael Boyd.

"That's an indictment, not a record," he said.

When flights are on time, it isn't just good for passengers—it also helps the airlines' bottom lines. The industry says it costs an average of $75 a minute to operate a plane. Last year, domestic delays cost airlines an estimated $5.2 billion. U.S. airlines made a combined $577 million in profit last year.

In the first six months of this year, nature has been kind to airlines. There have been 10 percent fewer thunderstorms than usual, according to a decade of data analyzed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Aviation Weather Center.

There has also been less snow. New York has had about 3 inches this year, compared with a 10-year average of 20 inches. Chicago, which averages 27 inches of snow from January through June, has had just 18. And Minneapolis has had 12 inches, one-third the normal snowfall at this point in the year.

The recession led fewer people to fly and prompted airlines to ground planes, clearing up airspace. In 2007, 14.8 million airplanes took off and landed at the nation's 35 largest airports, according to the Federal Aviation Administration. Last year, the number was down 10 percent to 13.3 million.

AP

In this Wednesday, Aug. 1 2012 photo, a countdown to departure clock is framed by a reflection of an American Airlines fleet clerk servicing an airplane at JFK International airport in New York.

US economic outlook brightens on jobs, trade data

WASHINGTON (AP)—The outlook for the U.S. economy brightened a little Thursday after new data pointed to improvement in hiring and greater exports.

The number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits last week fell by 6,000 to a seasonally adjusted 361,000, the Labor Department said. Economists noted that the level suggests the modest job creation in July could carry over into August.

The U.S. trade deficit narrowed to $42.9 billion in June from $48 billion in May, the Commerce Department said in a separate report. That's the lowest level in 18 months.

The drop was largely because of cheaper oil imports. But exports also rose to a record-high $185 billion, an encouraging sign at a time when global growth has slowed. U.S. companies even sold more goods in Europe, despite the region's ongoing financial crisis.

Some economists revised their growth forecasts higher for the April-June quarter after seeing the better trade data. A smaller trade deficit acts as less of a drag on growth because it means the United States is spending less on foreign-made products and is taking in more from sales of U.S.-made goods.

"As long as we can keep selling more of our goods across the world, the economy can (grow) at a moderate pace," said Joel Naroff of Naroff Economic Advisors. "In June, despite all the craziness in Europe and the slowdowns in Asia, our exports managed to increase. ``

The economy is looking more resilient after faltering in the spring.

Employers added 163,000 jobs in July, the biggest increase since February. From April through June, employers had created a lackluster 73,000 jobs a month, not enough to keep up with a rising population.

Applications for unemployment benefits measure the pace of layoffs. When they fall consistently below 375,000, it typically suggests hiring is strong enough to lower the unemployment rate.

Claims had averaged 385,000 a week in June before the numbers were muddied last month by seasonal factors related to temporary summertime layoffs in the auto industry. The seasonal distortions had faded by last week, providing a clearer picture of a slightly improved job market.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

China trade growth plunges in new sign of weakness

BEIJING (AP)—China's July trade growth suffered an unexpectedly sharp decline in a new sign of weakness for the world economy. Customs data on Friday showed exports rose just 1 percent over a year earlier, down from June's 11.3 percent growth rate and below forecasts of about 5 percent. Imports rose 4.7 percent, down from the previous month's 6.3 percent. The data reinforce indications the economy is still weak despite repeated government stimulus efforts. China's trade growth has fallen steadily this year as global demand for its exports cooled and efforts to boost domestic consumption have had only a limited impact.

Gas prices rise; officials wait to enter refinery

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A fire at one of the nation's largest oil refineries helped push West Coast gas prices close to $4 a gallon Thursday, as the same federal team that investigated the Gulf Coast spill waited to inspect the unit that was knocked out by the blaze. The U.S. Chemical Safety Board team was standing by with state and company inspectors to do structural and environmental tests to see if it was safe to enter the unit and determine when production might resume after the Monday night blaze. In all, five separate investigations will be done.

GM may have electric car breakthrough

DETROIT (AP)—A small battery company backed by General Motors is working on breakthrough technology that could power an electric car 100 or even 200 miles on a single charge in the next two-to-four years, GM's CEO said Thursday. Speaking at an employee meeting, CEO Dan Akerson said the company, Newark, Calif.-based Envia Systems, has made a huge breakthrough in the amount of energy a lithium-ion battery can hold. GM is sure that the battery will be able to take a car 100 miles within a couple of years, he said. It could be double that with some luck, he said. "I think we've got better than a 50-50 chance," Akerson said, "to develop a car that will go to 200 miles on a charge," he said. "That would be a game changer."

Health care law's tax hikes are coming: Who pays?

WASHINGTON (AP)—Who gets thumped by higher taxes in President Barack Obama's health care law? The wealthiest 2 percent of Americans will take the biggest hit, starting next year. And the pain will be shared by some who aren't so well off—people swept up in a hodgepodge of smaller tax changes that will help finance health coverage for millions in need.

For the vast majority of people, however, the health care law won't mean sending more money to the IRS.

And roughly 20 million people eventually will benefit from tax credits that start in 2014 to help them pay insurance premiums.

The tax increases—plus a mandate that nearly everyone have health coverage—are helping make the law an election-year scorcher. Obama is campaigning on the benefits for the uninsured, women and young adults. His rival, Mitt Romney, and Republican lawmakers are vowing to repeal "Obamacare," saying some health care reforms are needed but not at this cost.

Lots of the noise is about the financial consequences for people who decline to get coverage and businesses that don't offer their workers an adequate health plan. Some 4 million individuals without insurance are expected to pay about $55 billion over eight years, according to the Congressional Budget Office's estimates. Employers could be dinged an estimated $106 billion for failing to meet the mandate, which starts in 2014.

But that mandate money, whether it's called taxes or penalties, is overwhelmed by other taxes, fees and shrunken tax breaks in the law. These other levies could top $675 billion over the next 10 years, under the CBO's projections of how much revenue the government would lose if the law were repealed

The biggest chunk is in new taxes on the nation's top 2 percent of earners—some $318 billion over a decade. Other major taxes are aimed at the health care industry, and some of that cost is sure to be passed along to consumers as higher prices.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
13,165.20	1,402.80	3,018.64
-10.45	+0.58	+7.39
-0.08%	0.04%	0.25%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9506	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7563	Philippine Peso	41.8225
British Pound	0.6402	Indian Rupee	55.2275	Singapore Dollar	1.2466
Canadian Dollar	0.9934	Indonesian Rupiah	55.385	South Korean Won	1130.45
Chinese Yuan	6.3648	Japanese Yen	78.5505	Swiss Franc	0.9774
Euro	0.8138	Malaysian Ringgit	3.117	Taiwan Dollar	29.951
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2352	Thailand Baht	31.5

Nation

Lawyers: Colo. shooting suspect is mentally ill

CENTENNIAL, Colo. (AP)—Attorneys for the suspect in the Colorado movie theater shootings said Thursday their client is mentally ill and that they need more time to assess the nature of his illness.

James Holmes' lawyers made the disclosure at a court hearing in suburban Denver where news media organizations asked a judge to unseal documents in the case.

Holmes, a 24-year-old former Ph.D. student at the University of Colorado, Denver, had the familiar, dazed demeanor that he had in previous court appearances.

Holmes is accused of going on a July 20 shooting rampage at a midnight showing of the latest Batman movie in Aurora, killing 12 people and injuring 58 others.

Defense attorney Daniel King made the revelation about Holmes' illness as he argued that the defense needs more information from prosecutors and investigators to assess their client.

"We cannot begin to assess the nature and the depth of Mr. Holmes' mental illness until we receive full disclosure," he said.

King said Holmes sought out university psychiatrist Lynne Fenton for help. A hearing was scheduled for Aug. 16 to establish whether there was a doctor-patient relationship between them.

There were fewer victims and family members in the courtroom Thursday than at earlier hearings. Several spectators appeared mesmerized by the sight of Holmes, unable to take their eyes off him.

Mental illness "doesn't give him the right to do what he did," Chris Townsond, who escaped the shooting unharmed, said after the hearing. "I don't care how mentally damaged he is."

Analysts expect the case to be dominated by arguments over the defendant's sanity, and Thursday's statement by the defense was the strongest confirmation so far that mental illness will be a key issue.

A court document previously revealed that Holmes was seeing the psychiatrist for unknown reasons.

Holmes' public defenders could argue he is not mentally competent to stand trial.

It was the argument used for Jared Loughner, who pleaded guilty this week to a 2011 shooting rampage in Arizona that killed six people and wounded 13 others, including then-Rep. Gabrielle Giffords.

If Holmes goes to trial and is convicted, his attorneys can try to stave off a possible death penalty by arguing he is mentally ill. Prosecutors will decide whether to seek the death penalty in the coming weeks.

AP

This courtroom sketch shows suspect James Holmes, right, being escorted into court by a sheriff's deputy for a motions hearing for suspected theater shooter James Holmes in district court in Centennial, Colo., Thursday, Aug. 9, 2012.

The Associated Press and 20 other news organizations also asked Chief District Judge William Sylvester to scale back a gag order that bars the university from releasing details about Holmes.

Sylvester had said in issuing the order that he wanted to protect the county's investigation. But even Aurora officials have cited the gag order in declining to speak about the city's response to the shootings.

News media attorney Steven D. Zansberg said state law allows judges to issue gag orders barring prosecutors and law enforcement from commenting, but not agencies outside of the investigation, such as the university.

King opposed the news media motion, saying the gag order ensures fairness. Prosecutor Karen Pearson said she had filed her own argument on the issue in court—and that it is sealed.

Sylvester said he would rule on the matter by Monday. He did not say when he would respond to the news media's request to unseal the court documents.

Romney, Obama bemoan attack ads—but both benefit

PUEBLO, Colo. (AP)—Mitt Romney and President Barack Obama both deplored the pervasive presence of televised attack ads in the race for the White House on Thursday, though neither acknowledged being helped as well as harmed. Each blamed his foe.

Romney went first, saying of the president's campaign, "They just blast ahead" with ads that have been judged false by independent fact checkers.

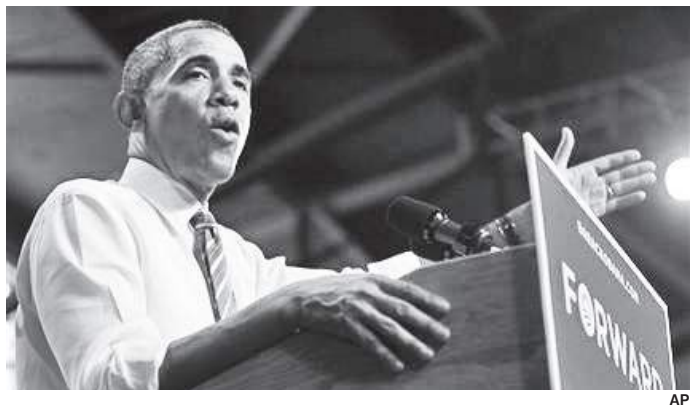
"I don't know whatever happened to a campaign of `hope and change,'" he said, a mocking reference to the spirit of optimism that Obama evoked during his successful run for the White House in 2008.

Obama ignored the slap. He told an audience in Colorado that "over the next three months, you will see more negative ads," and he suggested the blame lies with outside groups backing his rival.

"I mean, these super PACs, these guys are writing $10 million checks and giving them to Mr. Romney's supporters," he said.

Obama spoke as his own campaign unleashed yet another in the attack ad category, this one questioning whether there was ever a year in which Romney paid no federal taxes. `We don't know," the announcer says, then quickly adds that Romney once "personally approved over $70 million in fictional losses to the IRS as part of ... one of the largest tax avoidance schemes in history."

Romney broached the subject two days after the release of a searing ad in which a former steelworker appears to suggest that he and Bain Capital, the private equity firm he owned, might bear some responsibility for the man's wife's death from cancer. The ad is the work of Priorities USA Action, a group that supports Obama, and it has been judged inaccurate by independent fact checkers and attacked vociferously by aides to the GOP presidential challenger.



AP

President Barack Obama speaks at a campaign event at the Colorado State Fairgrounds, Thursday, Aug. 9, 2012, in Pueblo, Colo.

The back and forth took place as Romney looked ahead to a bus tour through four states in as many days, ending next Tuesday in Ohio. The itinerary renewed speculation that the trip might culminate in the announcement that the state's Sen. Rob Portman would be the named vice presidential running mate on the Republican ticket.

Obama barnstormed through battleground Colorado more like a candidate for statewide office than for the White House, with stops in several parts of the state over two days.

After saying in Denver that Romney advocated policies on women's issues straight from the 1950s, he switched topics to alternative energy. Campaigning in Pueblo, the president noted that his rival wants to end a tax credit that benefits the producers of wind energy, an industry that Obama said supports about 5,000 jobs in Colorado and as many as 37,000 nationwide.

ACROSS THE NATION

Zimmerman will seek 'stand your ground' hearing

MIAMI (AP)—George Zimmerman will seek to have second-degree murder charges dismissed under Florida's "stand your ground" law in the shooting death of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin, his attorney said Thursday. The hearing, which likely won't take place for several months, will amount to a mini-trial involving much of the evidence collected by prosecutors as well as expert testimony from both sides. "Most of the arguments, witnesses, experts and evidence that the defense would muster in a criminal trial will be presented in the `stand your ground' hearing," said the statement posted by Zimmerman attorney Mark O'Mara on Zimmerman's official defense website.

NASA's 'green' planetary test lander crashes

WASHINGTON (AP)—Earlier this week NASA safely landed a robotic rover on Mars about 150 million miles away. But on Thursday here on Earth, a test model planetary lander crashed and burned at Kennedy Space Center in Florida just seconds after liftoff. The spider-like spacecraft called Morpheus was on a test flight at Cape Canaveral when it tilted, crashed to the ground and erupted in flames. It got only a few feet up in the air, NASA said. NASA spokeswoman Lisa Malone said it appears that the methane-and-liquid oxygen powered lander is a total loss. Nobody was hurt in the unmanned experiment and the flames were put out, she said.

Face-chewing victim details attack in interview

MIAMI (AP)—A homeless man whose face was mostly chewed off in a bizarre assault alongside a busy South Florida highway told police that his attacker "just ripped me to ribbons." In a recorded interview with investigators made available Thursday, Ronald Poppo said the man who approached him initially seemed friendly. Then the man, Rudy Eugene, seemed to become angry about something that had happened on Miami Beach, where thousands were partying through the Memorial Day weekend. "For a while he was acting nice. Then he got flustered. He probably remembered something that happened on the beach and was not happy about it," Poppo told investigators in the interview. It was taped July 19 and first reported Wednesday by Miami news station WFOR-TV.

NJ mom sues over breast-feeding video-turned-porn

WOOD RIDGE, N.J. (AP)—A New Jersey mother is suing an Iowa production company after an instructional breast-feeding video she appeared in was taken by a third party and used to create pornography. A federal court judge ruled last week that Mary-Ann Sahoury's lawsuit against the Meredith Corp. could proceed. In January 2010, Sahoury agreed to demonstrate breast-feeding techniques with her month-old daughter in a video for Parents TV, which broadcasts original videos on parenting. Sahoury, who had had trouble breast-feeding, wanted to help women who faced similar difficulties, she said. "I didn't get paid to do this. I didn't want to be some sort of celebrity," Sahoury, 35, told The Associated Press. "I did this to help other moms."

CDC: 158 cases of new swine flu strain from pigs

ATLANTA (AP)—Don't pet the pigs.

That's the message state and county fair visitors got Thursday from health officials who reported a five-fold increase of cases of a new strain of swine flu that spreads from pigs to people. Most of the cases are linked to the fairs, where visitors are in close contact with infected pigs.

This flu has mild symptoms and it's not really spreading from person to person.

"This is not a pandemic situation," said Dr. Joseph Bresee of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

But any flu can be a risk for some people, and people should be cautious when they can, he added. The case count jumped from 29 a week ago to 158 this week, thanks to a wave of new cases in Indiana and Ohio, said Bresee, the agency's chief of influenza epidemiology.

Most of the infected patients are children—probably because many were working closely with raising, displaying and visiting pigs at the agricultural fairs, Bresee said.

The recent cases include at least 113 in Indiana, 30 in Ohio, one in Hawaii and one in Illinois, Bresee said in a conference call with reporters.

The count is changing rapidly. Indiana health officials on Thursday afternoon said they had seven more confirmed cases than Bresee noted.

Asia

China official's wife doesn't deny killing Briton

HEFEI, China (AP)—Testimony in China's most closely watched murder case in decades wrapped up within hours on Thursday as the wife of disgraced politician Bo Xilai stood accused of luring a British businessman to a hotel, getting him drunk and pouring poison into his mouth.

No verdict or sentence was immediately announced for Gu Kailai, who was tried with a household aide in the death of close family associate Neil Heywood. The defendants did not contest the murder charges. A guilty verdict is all but assured and could carry a death sentence.

The tightly orchestrated court proceeding marks a step toward resolving the messiest scandal the Communist leadership has faced in two decades.

Bo was one of China's most powerful and charismatic politicians until he was ousted in the spring as the scandal surrounding Heywood's death unfolded. Observers say the party's main objective is to keep the focus tightly on the murder case and not on larger allegations of corruption that could further taint the regime.

International media were barred from the trial at the Intermediate People's Court in the eastern Chinese city of Hefei. Details of the case against Gu were provided afterward by Tang Yigan, the court's deputy director.

He said prosecutors told the court that Gu sent her aide, Zhang Xiaojun, to meet and accompany Heywood from Beijing to the southern megacity of Chongqing, where Bo was the Communist Party boss.

Gu and Heywood were business associates but had a dispute over economic interests, according to Tang, whose account matched details from the indictment reported in official media several weeks ago. Gu thought Heywood was a threat to her 24-year-old son, Bo Guagua, and decided to have him killed, said Tang, who did not specify what sort of threat Heywood posed to the son, a recent Harvard graduate.

AP

This video image taken from CCTV shows Gu Kailai, center, the wife of disgraced politician Bo Xilai, standing trial in the Intermediate People's Court in the eastern Chinese city of Hefei Thursday Aug. 9, 2012.

On the night of Nov. 13, Gu went to Heywood's hotel and drank alcohol and tea with him.

"When Heywood was drunk and vomited and wanted to drink water, she then took preprepared poison that she had asked Zhang Xiaojun to carry, and poured it into Heywood's mouth, killing him," Tang said.

Heywood's friends and family have said he was never a heavy drinker, and they rejected investigators' initial conclusion that he drank himself to death. His body was cremated and no autopsy was performed.

Tang said the prosecutors believed the facts of the crime were clear and the evidence sufficient, and that "Gu Kailai is the main culprit and Zhang is the accomplice."

Before Thursday, the 53-year-old Gu had not been seen in months and has never publicly offered her side of the story.

Gu and Zhang are likely to be found guilty of intentional homicide, which carries punishment ranging from more than 10 years in jail to a life sentence or the death penalty. However, any mitigating circumstances, such as Gu's concern for her son's safety or that she suffered mental health issues or was acting to protect herself from danger, could lead to a more lenient sentence, said prominent Beijing-based rights lawyer Li Fangping.

The scandal came to light in February, when longtime Bo aide and former Chongqing police chief Wang Lijun suddenly fled to the U.S. Consulate in the city of Chengdu. Apparently fearing for his safety if he remained in Chongqing, Wang told American diplomats about his suspicions that Heywood had been murdered and that Bo's family was involved.

ASIA BRIEFS

Required viewing: Cambodian PM speaks for 5 hours

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—He's no Castro or Chavez, but Asia's longest serving ruler has set what appears to be a personal record for longest public speech: 5 hours and 20 minutes. Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen spoke to the lower house of parliament in a nationally televised speech Thursday that was mandatory viewing for civil servants. Government spokesman Khieu Kanharith said he believed it was Hun Sen's longest speech in 27 years as prime minister. Hun Sen, 61, spoke without taking breaks—or questions—mostly on sensitive border disputes with Vietnam. He blamed France, the former colonial ruler of both countries, for not clearly demarcating the border. Politicians often use the border issue to stir nationalism and garner support, and Hun Sen is seeking re-election in 2013.

China frees woman detained for fighting rape case

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese authorities have released a woman sent to a labor camp for challenging the sentences handed down to the men who abducted, raped and prostituted her 11-year-old daughter. Tang Hui was ordered last week to serve 18 months in a labor camp for "disturbing social order and exerting a negative impact on society." The crusading mother's case has aroused widespread public outrage and thrown a spotlight on China's controversial reeducation through labor camps. The official Xinhua News Agency said Tang was released Friday morning. It said Hunan provincial publicity authorities freed her so she could take care of her daughter, who is now 17 years old. It said authorities were also investigating Tang's claim that police falsified evidence in her daughter's case.

Nagasaki marks anniversary of A-bomb attack

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese officials pledged to seek a society less reliant on nuclear energy as the country marked the 67th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki on Thursday. About 6,000 people gathered at a peace park near the epicenter of the 1945 blast, including students and the mayor of one of the towns most affected by last year's nuclear plant disaster. Almost a year and half after the world's second worst accident at a nuclear power plant, concerns about the safety of nuclear energy and radiation effects persist. Nagasaki Mayor Tomihisa Taue said the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi plant, which was crippled by a tsunami last March, has exposed the risk of nuclear technology. Taue urged Japan to make concrete plans to achieve a nuclear-free society and called for renewed commitment to a global ban on nuclear weapons.

Taliban to debate Pakistani cricket star's protest

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan (AP)—Taliban leaders will hold a meeting to decide whether a Pakistani cricket star-turned-politician will be allowed to hold a planned march to their tribal stronghold to protest U.S. drone strikes, the militant group's spokesman said Thursday.

Ahsanullah Ahsan said the Pakistani Taliban consider Imran Khan to be an "infidel" since he has described himself as a liberal—a term they associate with a lack of religious belief. But the spokesman denied a threat reported earlier by The Associated Press that the group would kill Khan if he holds the demonstration he has planned for September.

The Pakistani Taliban leadership council "will decide what to do a week before his arrival and will announce it," Ahsan told the AP by email. "It's sure and clear that we don't have any sympathy with Imran Khan, neither do we need his sympathy, as he himself claims to be a liberal, and we see liberals as infidels."

The AP reported Wednesday that the Taliban would target Khan with suicide bombers if he held his march, following an interview with Ahsan in a remote area of their militant stronghold of South Waziristan.

Khan has described himself as a liberal in various TV interviews, but he has also made clear that he is a practicing Muslim—a distinction the Taliban seemed to ignore.

The 59-year-old Khan is perhaps the most famous person in Pakistan because he led the country's cricket team to victory in the 1992 World Cup. He was once known for his playboy lifestyle and marriage to British socialite Jemima Khan, but they divorced several years ago, and he has since become much more conservative and religious.

Khan founded the Pakistan Movement for Justice party about 15 years ago, but has only gained political momentum over the last year, riding a wave of opposition to drone strikes, the government's alliance with the U.S. and political corruption.

His detractors have criticized him for not being tough enough on the Pakistani Taliban, and have even nicknamed him "Taliban Khan" because of his views and his cozy ties with conservative Islamists who could help him attract right-wing voters in national elections likely to be held later this year or early next year.

As part of his political campaign, Khan has said he is planning to lead thousands of people in a march to Waziristan in September to demonstrate against U.S. drone strikes.

"A man of faith doesn't fear death & a march for peace against drones that have destroyed millions of lives in FATA (Pakistan's tribal region) ... is worth dying for," Khan Tweeted on Thursday.

Covert CIA drone strikes are very unpopular in Pakistan because many citizens believe they mostly kill civilians—an allegation denied by the U.S.

The Taliban regularly lash out at the attacks, which have killed many of their fighters and their former leader Baitullah Mehsud.

Yoga guru leads mass rally over Indian corruption

NEW DELHI (AP)—Indians shouted patriotic slogans and listened to a rousing speech from a charismatic yoga guru who began fasting Thursday to pressure the government to bring back billions of ill-gotten gains—so-called black money—citizens have stashed in foreign banks.

Supporters of Baba Ramdev jammed traffic across New Delhi as they walked to the sprawling Ramlila fairgrounds and buses from nearby states converged on the capital. About 20,000 people pledged their support for Ramdev's campaign to wipe out tax evasion and endemic corruption in India.

Squatting on the ground and fanning themselves with bits of cardboard in the sweltering monsoon heat, supporters cheered as Ramdev spoke.

"I am not against any political party. My protest is only to end black money and to bring back to this country what rightfully belongs to the people of India," he announced from a 20-foot high platform constructed at the end of a vast tent.

Though poor acoustics made it difficult to hear Ramdev, his supporters were unfazed, saying they already knew what he stood for.

"He is our hope for the future. He will save this country from the politicians," said Amulya Kumar, a farm laborer from Bihar, who was holding a small bundle of clothes and food.

Along with his teenage nephew, Kumar had traveled two days by train from Bihar's poverty-stricken Munger district for the rally.

Millions of Indians tune in every day to watch Ramdev perform yoga exercises on his popular TV show. In the past few years he has transformed his popularity as a yoga guru to highlight his campaign against corruption.

Ramdev said he would not eat for three days and outlined his demands: a robust ombudsman law to keep checks on government, a strong and independent Central Bureau of Investigation and efforts to act against tax evasion and illegal money sent to banks abroad.

The government said Thursday said a committee was working on a draft of the ombudsman bill, which would be placed before Parliament next month. India's finance ministry is in the process of tightening laws to curb the generation of black money and its illegal transfer abroad.

The protest comes less than a week after the latest hunger strike by anti-graft crusader Anna Hazare failed to attract the huge crowds that had turned out for his past protests. Hazare and his supporters said they would give up agitating and join politics instead.

Middle-class Indians fed up with corruption had flocked to Hazare's initial protests last year, which Ramdev also supported.

World

Iran tries to calm Syria crisis as violence rages

BEIRUT (AP)—As Syrian forces struggled to drive rebels from the country's largest city, the regime's key ally Iran tried Thursday to start an alternative political process to address the crisis.

Iran gathered an array of nations ranging from strong supporters of Damascus to far-flung nations a world away from the Syrian civil war.

The one-day forum is unlikely to result in any international consensus, but it shows Iran's resolve to stand by President Bashar Assad as his forces try to crush the 17-month-old uprising.

On Thursday, Syrian rebels said they were low on ammunition but still managed to put up resistance against a regime ground offensive in the city of Aleppo, a center of fighting for more than two weeks.

Tehran billed Thursday's conference as a way to focus on dialogue—an alternative to Western-led initiatives that call for Assad to give up power.

Iran has said in the past that the Syrian regime's critics fail to take into account violence by the rebels. "Iran is against the killing of unarmed people and citizens by any side," Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi said at the gathering.

AP

A Syrian gunman shoots on the air during the funeral of 29 year-old Free Syrian Army fighter, Husain Al-Ali, who was killed during clashes in Aleppo, in the town of Marea on the outskirts of Aleppo city, Syria, Thursday, Aug. 9, 2012.

He also warned that sending weapons to the opposition will only fuel the crisis, and he accused rebels of using civilians as "human shields."

Syrian rebels last week intercepted a bus carrying 48 Iranians in a Damascus suburb and seized them. Rebels claimed the men are military personnel, including some members of Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guard, who were on a "reconnaissance mission" to help Assad's crackdown.

Iran, however, says the 48 were pilgrims visiting a Shiite shrine in Damascus. Salehi said Wednesday that some of the pilgrims are retired members of the army and Revolutionary Guard.

The overwhelmingly Sunni Muslim rebels have also seized 11 Lebanese Shiite pilgrims who have been held in northern Syria since May.

Salehi said some 30 countries attended the meeting, including Russia and China, as well as far-off Benin, Cuba and Mauritania. The meeting was called at short notice, and most countries were represented at the ambassador level.

Russia in the past has urged the West to allow Tehran to take part in international discussions on how to settle the Syrian crisis, arguing that the Islamic republic could play an important role. Moscow has been the main protector and ally of Assad's regime, shielding it from U.N. sanctions over its brutal crackdown on an uprising that has evolved into a full-blown civil war.

The U.S. dismissed the Iranian gathering.

"We think the Iranian behavior in Syria is destructive," State Department spokesman Patrick Ventrell said. "It's just hard for us to imagine that after putting so much effort into keeping Assad in power ... how they can be a constructive actor in facilitating a political solution to the crisis."

On Thursday, government troops and rebels clashed in opposition bastions of Aleppo, a city of 3 million people.

The state news agency claimed Wednesday that Assad's force had regained control of the Salaheddine neighborhood, the main rebel area in Aleppo. But activists said rebels were still putting up a fight there on Thursday.

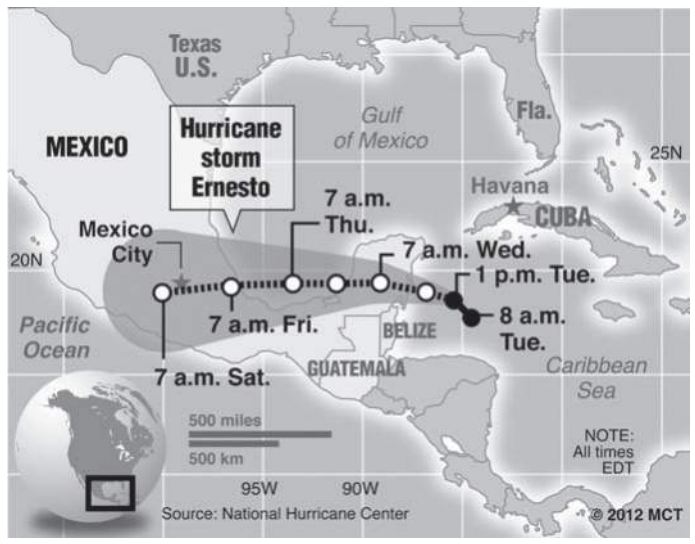
Heavy rain as Ernesto makes landfall in Mexico

VERACRUZ, Mexico (AP)—Tropical Storm Ernesto made landfall Thursday near the port city of Coatzacoalcos and moved inland while drenching Mexico's southern Gulf, an area prone to flooding.

Ernesto came ashore after spinning across the far southern Gulf of Mexico in waters dotted with oil rigs operated by the state oil company. The government closed its largest Gulf coast port, Veracruz, and the smaller ports of Alvarado and Coatzacoalcos.

Coatzacoalcos, a major oil port, already had gotten seven inches (177 millimeters) of rain in the 24 hours before Ernesto's center passed just a few miles (kilometers) away, according to Mexico's weather service. San Pedro in the neighboring state of Tabasco had seen more than 10 inches (273 millimeters).

"It's raining intermittently. It rains, its stops, and then it rains again," said Juventino Martinez, the civil defense chief in Coatzacoalcos. "We have some flooding, some water building up" on streets in lower-lying sections of the city. He said 40 shelters were ready but hadn't been used yet.



Municipal employee Brito Gomez reported water was waist high in some neighborhoods.

About 2,000 army and navy personnel were on stand-by to head to inland mountains to help in rescue work if needed, said Noemi Guzman, Veracruz state civil defense director. Guzman said no flooding had been reported so far at any of the state's many rivers.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center said the storm's sustained winds had declined to about 45 mph (75 kph) by early evening as it interacted with land. It had grown into a hurricane shortly before landfall Tuesday night near the cruise ship port of Mahahual in Yucatan, but it weakened as it crossed the peninsula. Ernesto then steamed back out into the Gulf of Mexico on Wednesday night.

The storm was centered about 90 miles (150 kilometers) west of Coatzacoalcos on Thursday evening, moving to the west at 11 mph (18 kph) and creating the threat of torrential flooding.

The U.S. hurricane center said Ernesto could produce rainfalls of up to 15 inches in some parts of the mountainous areas of Veracruz, Tabasco, Puebla and Oaxaca, before weakening and dissipating in a day or two.

With many small communities clinging to hillsides in those states, authorities worried about potential flash floods and mudslides.

Sinai buildup shifts tenet of Egypt-Israel peace

CAIRO (AP)—Egyptian troops, light tanks, armored vehicles and attack helicopters are pouring into the Sinai desert to root out increasingly aggressive Islamic militants in the most significant easing to date of a key provision in the landmark 1979 peace treaty with Israel: The demilitarization of the peninsula.

For more than 30 years, Egyptian soldiers with heavy weapons were virtually banned from much of Sinai to create a buffer between the longtime enemies. Now, Israel has green-lighted the surge in hopes militants on its doorstep will be defeated.

But talk of formally changing the treaty remains just that, talk.

The reason may lie in the delicate realities of the new Egypt, where the fiercely anti-Israel Muslim Brotherhood has risen to political power—with one of its own as Egypt's first president since the ouster of Hosni Mubarak last year. The Islamist group has said that Egypt will continue to abide by the accord. At the same time, it has repeatedly called for changes in the treaty's limits on troops in Sinai, seen as humiliating.

But its calls may be mainly rhetoric for an Egyptian public among which anti-Israel feeling is high and amending the deal is popular.

Actually renegotiating the accord would require diplomatic gymnastics for the Brotherhood to keep its vow never to meet with Israeli officials. And any deal could be spun as the Brotherhood signing a peace agreement with its nemesis, no matter how much technical deniability the group tries to maintain.

Israel is willing to bend troop limits. But it is tepid to formal amendments for fear of enshrining too much firepower on its border, especially when Egypt's post-Mubarak future remains unclear.

A senior Israeli official told The Associated Press in Jerusalem that the question of amending the treaty was not raised by the Egyptians so far, or by the Israelis. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

Libya elects former Gadhafi foe interim president

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—Libya's newly formed national assembly elected former opposition leader Mohammed el-Megarif as the country's interim president on Friday, the latest move to establish a democratically based leadership after decades of rule by deposed dictator Moammar Gadhafi.

El-Megarif won 113 votes to defeat another opposition leader and human rights lawyer, Ali Zidan, who won 85 votes from the 200-member General National Congress, an assembly created in the first nationwide election since Gadhafi's ouster and killing last year. Both men had been diplomats who defected and fought Gadhafi's regime while living in exile since the 1980s.

"This is a historic moment and no one is a loser," said Hussein al-Ansari, an independent lawmaker speaking after the victor was announced. "The two are nationalist fighters who battled the regime."

El-Megarif, who authored a series of books on Gadhafi's repressive policies, lived as a wanted fugitive for years, and was the leader of the country's oldest armed opposition movement, the National Front for the Salvation of Libya. The movement made several attempts to end Gadhafi's 42-year rule, sometimes by plotting assassination attacks including a well- known and daring 1984 assault on Bab al-Aziziyah, the late dictator's fortified compound in Tripoli.

The regime cracked down on the group, executing and arresting many of its members. Many fled abroad where they worked as political activists. El-Megarif's movement organized the first Libyan opposition conference in London in 2005 and called for the overthrow of Gadhafi's regime at a time when other groups, including the Muslim Brotherhood, accepted Gadhafi's outreach to the opposition.

Young Style

Kids' cholesterol down; fewer trans fats cited

AP

Dr. Sarah de Ferranti, director of preventive cardiology at Boston Children's Hospital, left, meets with patient Quinn Voccio, 14, of Newton, Mass., right, in Waltham, Mass., Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2012.

By MIKE STOBBE
AP MEDICAL WRITER

ATLANTA (AP)—Finally some good news about cholesterol and kids: A big government study shows that in the past decade, the proportion of children who have high cholesterol has fallen.

The results are surprising, given that the childhood obesity rate didn't budge.

How can that be?

Some experts think that while most kids may not be eating less or exercising more, they may be getting fewer trans fats. That's because the artery-clogging ingredient has been removed or reduced in many processed or fried foods such as doughnuts, cookies and french fries.

"That's my leading theory," said Dr. Sarah de Ferranti, director of preventive cardiology at Boston Children's Hospital. She wrote an editorial that accompanies the study.

The study did not look at the reasons for the decline, but its lead author, Dr. Brian Kit of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said the theory makes sense.

The research, released online Tuesday by the Journal of the American Medical Association, also showed that children's average overall cholesterol levels declined slightly.

ON THE NET

CDC Web page on cholesterol: http://www.cdc.gov/cholesterol

Too much cholesterol in the blood raises the risk of heart disease. It isn't usually an immediate threat for most children, but those who have the problem often grow into adults with a high risk.

Kit and his colleagues drew data from an intensive national study that interviews people and does blood-cholesterol tests. They focused on more than 16,000 children and adolescents over three periods—1988-94, 1999-2002 and 2007-10.

During the most recent period studied, 1 in 12 children ages 6 through 19 had high cholesterol. That was down from 1 in 9 during each of the earlier periods—roughly a 28 percent decline.

The average overall cholesterol level fell from 165 to 160. In children, 200 is considered too high.

The study was the first in almost 20 years to show such a decline. Kids' cholesterol levels also fell between the 1960s and the early 1990s, probably because people were eating less fat.

The researchers in the latest study detected modest improvements in children's levels of so-called good cholesterol, which can protect the heart. That may be partly due to declines in teen smoking and childhood exposure to secondhand smoke over the last decade. Studies have found that chemicals in cigarette smoke can lower good cholesterol.

The bigger news was what happened with bad cholesterol and triglycerides. They went down by small but significant amounts.

Cholesterol levels have been declining in adults, too. The incidence of high cholesterol dropped about 27 percent in the last decade, from about 1 in 5 adults at the beginning of the period to 1 in 7 at the end.

But cholesterol-lowering drugs known as statins were a big part of the reason for that decline—millions of adults take them. Children are rarely given statins.

Last year, a government-appointed panel urged widespread cholesterol screening for children. It was controversial because of concerns it would lead to more kids being given medicine. Experts say statins should be used in only the worst cases—less than 1 percent.

Artificial trans fats are known to decrease good cholesterol and increase bad cholesterol. In 2006, the federal government began requiring that packaged foods list the amount of trans fat per serving, a boon for careful shoppers.

Meanwhile, a push to take trans fats out of foods gained momentum. New York City banned artificial trans fats in restaurant food in 2008. California in 2010 became the first state to adopt such a ban. Even Crisco, the goopy shortening that was trans fat incarnate, was reformulated to take it out.

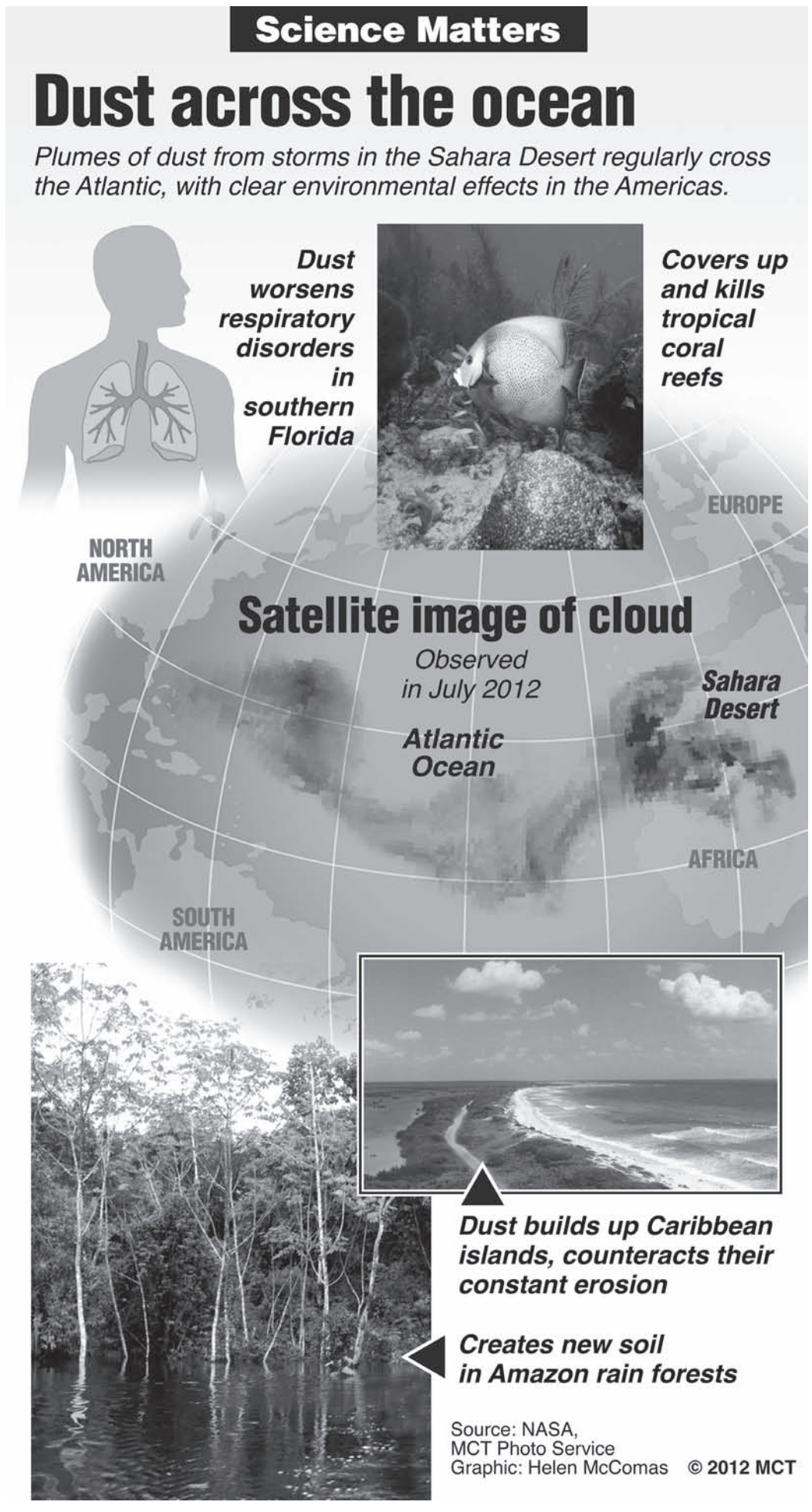
"I love the idea that reduced use of hydrogenated trans fats might be responsible" for the new study's results, Marion Nestle, a New York University professor of nutrition, food studies and public health, said in an email. "If so—and as usual it's clear that more research is needed—it would mean that public health measures like the trans fat ban in New York City are actually doing enough good to be measurable."

This is not the first study to suggest a payoff in trans fat policy efforts. The U.S. Department of Agriculture found that from 2005 to 2010, the average trans fat content in bakery items and other foods declined steeply. A small, preliminary CDC study published earlier this year found significant drops in trans fats in white adults between 2000 and 2009.

Despite the good news, experts remain worried.

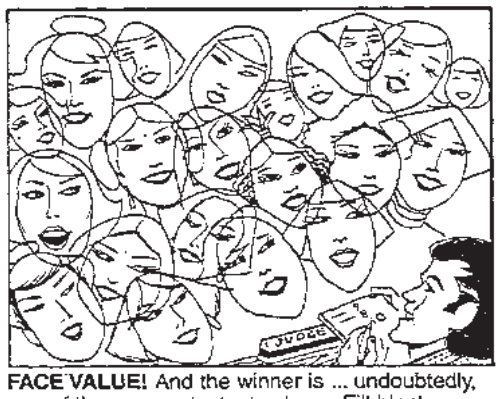
Seventeen percent of U.S. children are obese, perhaps because they are still eating lots of carbohydrates and sugar. That, along with little exercise, can lead to diabetes and heart disease.

"We may have a small effect in the right direction from lower cholesterol, but I'm worried it will be overwhelmed by the earlier onset of obesity in younger and younger children," de Ferranti said. "I'm still pretty worried about how many kids are going to wind up patients of adult cardiologists."


Science Matters
Dust across the ocean
Plumes of dust from storms in the Sahara Desert regularly cross the Atlantic, with clear environmental effects in the Americas.
Dust worsens respiratory disorders in southern Florida
Covers up and kills tropical coral reefs
EUROPE
NORTH AMERICA
Satellite image of cloud
Observed in July 2012
Sahara Desert
Atlantic Ocean
AFRICA
SOUTH AMERICA
Dust builds up Caribbean islands, counteracts their constant erosion
Creates new soil in Amazon rain forests
Source: NASA,
MCT Photo Service
Graphic: Helen McComas © 2012 MCT

Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman



FACE VALUE! And the winner is ... undoubtedly, one of the ___ contestants above. Fill blank. Artist's count is 21.

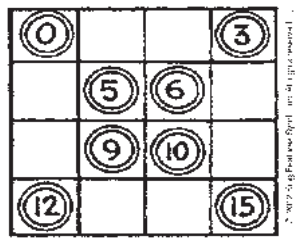
ED SKED! Who's away at college? There's Dale at Yale, Luke at Duke, Gwen at Penn, Flo at Coe, Jill at McGill, Grace at Pace, Hugh at Drew, Clayton at Dayton, Herman at Furman, Winston at Princeton. Any to add?

BOXED IN! Eight numbers between 0 and 15 are in place in a cluster of 16 squares, at right. Numbers in each of the diagonals and also those in the four squares at center total exactly 30.

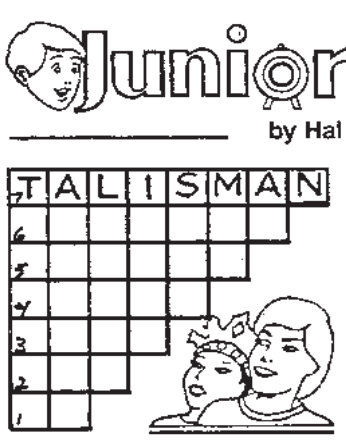
You are asked to insert the remaining numbers of the 0-15 series — 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 11, 13, and 14 — so that all four horizontal rows and all four vertical rows also total 30.

How long will it take you to puzzle this out?

Time limit: Five minutes.



Top row across: 0,14,13,3; second row: 11,5,8; third row: 7,9,10,4; bottom row: 12,2,1,15.



LUCKY CHARM MELTDOWN

GOOD LUCK to you in this step-word exercise whose key word is TALISMAN. Object is to drop a letter in each step and to form a new word with remaining letters, in accord with definitions provided below.

7. Lucky charm (TALISMAN, in place).
6. Lions, tigers, elephants, etc. (pl.)
5. Spicy deli meat.
4. Phony name.
3. Put out to sea.
2. Suffer a health problem.
1. Home of the baseball Dodgers (abbr.)

Time limit: 2 min.

No fair peeking below.

7. Talisman. 6. Animals. 5. Salami. 4. Alias. 3. Sail. 2. Ail. 1. L.A.

Why microchip?

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: Last spring, as I was taking my cat "Ferris" out of my mom's car at the vet's office, he jumped out of my arms and ran into the woods. We searched the woods and surrounding neighborhoods for hours, with no luck. About a week later, we got a call from a veterinarian almost 10 miles away from where Ferris had escaped! He was found by one of the assistants, and they had quickly identified Ferris by scanning his implanted microchip.

Please tell your readers how important it is to microchip their pets. It reunited us with Ferris quickly, once he was found.—Sarah in Smyrna, Ga.

DEAR SARAH: I'm glad to hear Ferris got home safely! Microchipping can indeed help reunite a lost pet with its owners. The biggest benefit of microchips is that if a pet loses its collar and ID tag, the microchip—a rice grain-sized device typically implanted just under the skin between the shoulder blades—carries that ID information as well as contact information.

Once a microchip is implanted, owners should register the chip's information at an online registry such as the nonprofit Found Animals http://microchipregistry.foundanimals.org/ or a registry recommended by your veterinarian. If your pet gets lost and is found and scanned, the information will be relayed to these registries. From there, the owner can check the registries, or opt to be alerted if their pet's chip is scanned.

Microchipping is affordable, as well. Generally, even the priciest chipping costs well under $100, and it's often offered as part of low-cost vaccination clinics at a reduced price.

■ ■ ■

Send your questions or comments to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. For more pet care-related advice and information, visit www.pawscorner.com.

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Strange BUT TRUE

by Samantha Weaver

■ It was British-American poet T.S. Eliot who made the following sage observation: "Immature poets imitate; mature poets steal."

■ Each fingernail on the Statue of Liberty is nearly a foot long.

■ Filmmaker George Lucas is arguably best known for his "Star Wars" franchise, but he also directed "American Graffiti." During the making of that earlier film, he designated each reel of film with an R before the reel's number, and each instance of dialog was prefixed with a D. At one point during the sound mixing, the sound designer needed to use Reel 2, Dialog 2, and so asked for "R2D2." Lucas liked the sound of it so much that he used it for the name of a robot character in his later work.

■ You can tell a cranberry is ripe when it can be dribbled like a basketball.

■ Those who study such things (and seemingly have too much time on their hands) say that a quarter has 119 grooves around the outside edge, while dimes have 118.

■ Have you ever heard of a woman named Thelma Pickles? Unless you're a somewhat obsessive fan of the Beatles, probably not. She was John Lennon's first girlfriend.

■ Among those who play basketball professionally, the men average 6 feet, 7 inches tall, while the women average an even 6 feet.

■ If you're a vegetarian, you're part of the 3 percent of American adults who shun meat. In India, though, you'd be part of a much larger minority; nearly a third of the population of that country is vegetarian.

■ You may be surprised to learn that the pound sign is officially known as an octothorpe.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "A pessimist is a person who has listened to too many optimists."—Don Marquis

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MAGIC MAZE ● HIGH —

H N K H E B Y V S P M J H E B
Y V T Q O L I G D B Y W T R P
M K I W F D B Y W S U G S Q E
O M K I I F D B S Z C O X W V
U S Q O N R D R L J H H F D I
C A Y A D V E N T U R E O N S
W V T O S T S P A Q P H E O O
N L O K A I R M P M H T F O L
F L E W C A O U B E M N I N P
B Z Y W E V H J U S T O L M X
R Q P G N M L J S A E S C I E

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Adventure	Horse	On the hog	Time
Command	Jump	School	Waters
Explosive	Life	Seas	Wire
Gear	Noon	Stepper	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	÷		+		12
+		×		÷	
	−		×		4
÷		−		+	
	×		−		6
4		1		13	

1 2 3 4 5 6 8 8 9

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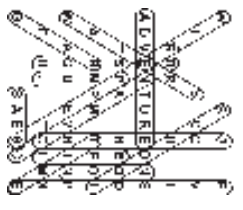
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

	13		1		4
6	9	−	5	×	3
	+		−		÷
4	2	×	6	−	8
	÷		×		+
12	8	+	1	÷	4

Simple summer entertaining

"How about blueberry muffins and a cup of coffee tomorrow morning here at my house? This might be a good opportunity to get together for a 'mom chat' before summer winds down," emailed my friend Carol.

How could I refuse such a perfect excuse to put my "to-do" list aside and just hang out in her charming home? Plus, I can always use an extra dose of "mom" time.

Our conversation on that recent rainy morning was brightened by votive candlelight and a lively conversation about our latest crowd-pleasing ideas for entertaining at picnics, birthday parties and backyard barbecues.

Here are some of our style-on-a-shoestring favorites:

Table Decor

Bring blooming flowerpots inside from your yard or deck for an instant, fresh centerpiece. Or, let your kids pick little bunches of herbs from your garden, such as parsley, oregano, dill and thyme. Tuck them in mini vases or small jars lined up in the middle of the table. Name them as the kids arrange them.

Corn on the Grill

Have more than a kernel of fun when you grill ears of freshly picked corn for a slightly smoky taste. We like to soak ours in a tub of water for a half-hour, husk and all, before we put them on the barbecue.

Protect your hands with potholders when you peel away the charred husks before serving the corn.

Simple Dessert

Several hours before a gathering, scoop your favorite flavors of ice cream into ball shapes and set in 8-inch-by-8-inch aluminum cake pans. Set them in your freezer until serving time. Use tongs to place them in a big serving bowl on a table set with a sundae bar of sauces and toppings such as mini chocolate chips, candy sprinkles, chopped peanuts and shredded coconut.

Make a Travel Book a Guest Book

It can be hard to say goodbye to guests you see only occasionally. Preserve the memory of their stay when you ask them to sign your guestbook. Make it easy to trigger thoughts by using a coffee-table style photo travel book of your area as the guestbook. They can find a landmark or place of interest they toured and jot down a line or two on the page by a photo. It might read, "We'll never forget our 30-mile bike ride and the fish tacos we ate at sunset by Lake Calhoun."

Extra Idea: If you are hosting a party for a neighborhood family moving away, encourage guests to sign a photo travel book of your town as a personalized "send-off."

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

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Good Housekeeping

Bulgur Bean Burgers

Hearst Communications, Inc.

Satisfy vegetarians and meat-eaters alike with these healthful, Middle Eastern-style Bulgur Bean Burgers. No one will miss the beef when black beans and spices are providing first-class flavor.

1 cup water
Salt and ground black pepper
1/2 cup bulgur
1 can (15 to 19 ounces) reduced-sodium black beans, rinsed and drained
1 container (6 ounces) plain low-fat yogurt
1/4 teaspoon ground allspice
1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon ground cumin
1/4 cup (packed) mint leaves, chopped
Nonstick cooking spray
1 small shredded Kirby (pickling) cucumber
4 whole-wheat hamburger buns
4 lettuce leaves
1 medium tomato, sliced

1 In 1-quart saucepan, heat water and 1/2 teaspoon salt to boiling over high heat. Stir in bulgur. Reduce heat to low; cover and simmer 10 to 12 minutes or until water is absorbed.

2 Meanwhile, in large bowl, with potato masher or fork, mash beans with 2 tablespoons yogurt until almost smooth. Stir in bulgur, allspice, cinnamon, cumin and half of mint until combined. With lightly floured hands, shape bean mixture into four 3-inch-round patties. Spray both sides of each patty lightly with nonstick cooking spray.

3 Heat nonstick 12-inch skillet over medium heat until hot. Add burgers and cook 8 minutes or until lightly browned and heated through, turning over once.

4 While burgers are cooking, prepare yogurt sauce: In small bowl, combine cucumber, remaining yogurt and mint, 1/4 teaspoon salt and 1/8 teaspoon pepper. Makes about 1 1/4 cups.

5 To serve, divide lettuce, tomato and burgers among buns; top with some yogurt sauce. Serve with remaining yogurt sauce. Serves 4.

Each serving: About 295 calories, 3g total fat (1g saturated), 3mg cholesterol, 960mg sodium, 58g total carbs, 13g dietary fiber, 16g protein.

For thousands of triple-tested recipes, visit our website at www.goodhousekeeping.com/recipefinder/.

Chicken Burgers

Hearst Communications, Inc.

1 pound ground chicken breasts
1 medium carrot, grated (1/2 cup)
2 green onions, minced
1 clove garlic, crushed with garlic press
4 hamburger buns, warmed
Sliced cucumber, lettuce leaves and green onion (optional)

1 In medium bowl, with hand, mix ground chicken, carrot, green onions and garlic until evenly combined.

2 On waxed paper, shape chicken mixture into four 3 1/2-inch round patties (mixture will be very soft and moist).

3 Place patties on grill over medium heat and cook about 12 minutes or until juices run clear when center of burger is pierced with tip of knife, turning over once. (If you have a grill with widely spaced grates, you may want to place burgers on a perforated grill topper to keep them intact.)

4 Place burgers on warmed buns. Serve with cucumber slices, lettuce leaves and green onions if you like. Serves 4.

Each serving: About 275 calories, 30g protein, 24g carbohydrate, 5g total fat (1g saturated), 2g fiber, 72mg cholesterol, 310mg sodium.

For thousands of triple-tested recipes, visit our website at www.goodhousekeeping.com/recipefinder/.

YOUR PLACE

It's black algae again, staining a roof

By AL HEAVENS
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Roofers say copper tends to be the best deterrent to the start and growth of black algae, although zinc, too, is sometimes used.

Q: We have dark streaks on our roof that have appeared over the last couple of years. Shingles are cedar color. Our home is a rancher with a hip roof and 4-inch pitch. Streaks are unsightly, and we don't know what procedure to follow to get rid of them. You may have addressed this issue previously. If so, I missed it. Don't know why because I read you faithfully.

A: I've been waiting for the return of this question since 2009.

The "stain" is, of course, black algae. The problem began surfacing several years ago when asphalt-shingle manufacturers switched from rags to ground limestone as a filler material, roofers say.

Black algae really loves the stuff, with all those nutrients, and shady spots on the roof supply constant moisture, keeping the limestone damp and helping the algae grow.

Mildew—that green stuff—feeds off the black algae.

Black algae typically takes about 10 years to begin appearing, about the time the 10-year manufacturer's warranty on algae expires. Some shingle manufacturers have been adding waste from copper processing to the limestone filler because copper has been proven to deter algae growth.

Roofers say copper tends to be the best deterrent to the start and growth of black algae, although zinc, too, is sometimes used.

Roofers nail copper or zinc strips at the peak of the roof above the portion affected by the black algae. When it rains, water reacts with the copper strip, and what is produced—this isn't a chemistry class—continues down the roof to kill the algae, and the stain disappears.

While some roofers think copper is better, zinc is what most suppliers sell. Other metals also appear to work to some degree, though not consistently, at least from observations

The obvious question, of course: Is the black algae or the green mildew damaging your shingles? The mildew simply makes your roof slippery to walk on.

Black algae? Roofers and shingle suppliers seem to say no.

The official policy of CertainTeed of Valley Forge, I've been told, is that the black algae is an aesthetic problem only, and roofers agree with that assessment.

Black algae is ugly, however, and that's why homeowners want to get rid of it. One roofer I've talked with uses a product called Shingle Shield, www.shingleshield.com, which the manufacturer says contains no bleach or chlorine. The active ingredient is sodium hydroxide, also known as lye or caustic soda, which requires the user to don protective clothing—mask and goggles, too.

It does the job, but when it heads down the downspouts, the substance can damage all the plants, the roofer warned.

Power washing with the stuff at the lowest, gentlest setting possible is the way to go.

You don't scrub, because it disturbs the granules that protect the shingles, and that will surely reduce the life of your roof.

HOLIDAY PROTECTION: Protection 1, the electronic security provider, offers some tips for home safety during summer vacations.

Secure all windows, including those upstairs, and reduce the chance of easy entry by cutting tree limbs away from second-story windows.

Remove objects that might allow access to your home, such as ladders or trash cans that could be used to enter a window or scale a fence.

Do not leave Facebook, Twitter, Google Plus, or other social media posts letting people know that you will be out of town.

Turn your telephone ringer down, so no one outside can hear repeated rings, and review your voice mail message to make sure it does not imply you are away; also, use timers to operate lights.

Be sure to have all mail, newspapers, and deliveries held or picked up by a neighbor, friend, or relative.

Questions? E-mail Alan J. Heavens at aheavens@phillynews.com, or write him at The Inquirer, Box 8263, Philadelphia PA 19101. Volume prohibits individual replies.

Shower head a leaky mess

By Samantha Mazzotta
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THIS IS A HAMMER

Q: I have one of those flexible sprayer shower heads that you can lift from its holder and use. Whenever I turn on the shower, water squirts from the part where the holder attaches to the water pipe, and also runs from the end of the hose where it attaches to the shower head. Do I need to replace it or can I fix this?—Lorelei D., Atlanta

B: Check the shower head attachment points for any visible damage first. A visibly cracked hose or plastic attachment piece often means the entire unit needs to be replaced. However, if you can't see any damage, you may be able to fix this with just the twist of an adjustable wrench.

To avoid damaging or scratching the connector nut—which attaches the shower unit to the inlet pipe (sometimes called a gooseneck pipe)—wrap a soft rag around the nut. Use an adjustable wrench that can fit comfortably around the connector nut, and gently turn the nut clockwise just slightly—one-quarter turn at most. Unwrap the rag from around the connector nut and turn on the shower to see if the leak has diminished or stopped. If it needs more adjustment, replace the rag and gently turn the connector nut another quarter-turn.

Keep in mind that turning the connector too tight may make the leak worse; that's one reason to make such small incremental adjustments. Another reason is to avoid damaging the connector nut or the seal.

If you notice cracks or other damage to the shower unit, in most cases you'll need to replace the entire unit (except for some more expensive shower heads, which often offer replacement parts from the manufacturer). To replace the unit, head to the home-improvement store and pick out a shower head of your choice, along with some Teflon tape.

Back home, turn off the water feed to the shower. If you can't find the nearest shutoff valve, turn off water to the house.

Unscrew the old shower sprayer unit from the inlet pipe, using your pliers and turning counterclockwise to loosen and remove it. Clean away any old sealant, tape or gunky buildup from the threads of the inlet pipe.

Unwrap the new shower unit and take a look at the connection and accompanying hardware. Connectors that come with a rubber washer generally need to be tightly screwed on using your pliers; connectors that don't generally just need to be hand-tightened.

Now, take your new Teflon tape. Wrap it carefully around the threads of the inlet pipe, creating a single layer around the threads from the end of the pipe to just below the end of the threads. (The tape will push upward when you screw on the new shower head, so leave a bit of space.) Press the tape into the threads with your fingers.

Carefully line up the connector of the new shower unit with the pipe and screw on, turning clockwise. Use your hand to tighten the connection; if you need to tighten more, protect the finish of the connector by wrapping a rag around it and tighten in small increments using pliers. Turn on water to the shower to test the connection, adjusting slightly if needed until the connection no longer leaks.

home tip

HOME TIP: Don't have a set of pliers that fit your pipes? Look for channel locking pliers, which can open to a range of widths to fit varying widths of pipe.

Send your questions or tips to ask@thisisahammer.com, or write This Is a Hammer, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

Life & Style

‘Bourne’ writer-director Gilroy taps real science

LOS ANGELES (AP)—“The Bourne Legacy” is a work of fiction, but the scientific, political and corporate partnerships it depicts are very real.

Tony Gilroy, a writer on the first three “Bourne” films and writer-director of this latest installment, spent countless hours immersed in military and intelligence research to tell the story of CIA assassin Jason Bourne.

When tasked with expanding Bourne’s universe for “Legacy,” Gilroy again looked to reality: Hundreds—if not thousands—of secret government and quasi-government programs funded by millions and millions of dollars with little oversight, all designed to build better weapons and better soldiers.

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, which performs research for the U.S. Department of Defense, is just one organization developing the kinds of programs that would fit perfectly into Bourne’s world: Not just high-tech weapons and robotic prostheses, but advances in neuroscience to help reduce battlefield stress, hasten learning, improve analytic capabilities and even engender trust.

Bioethicist and University of Pennsylvania professor Jonathan Moreno explores the relationship between brain research and national defense in his book “Mind Wars.”

AP

This image originally released by Universal Pictures shows Matt Damon as the character Jason Bourne in “The Bourne Ultimatum.”

“The improvement of soldiers’ war-fighting ability, brain-machine interfaces and the use of drugs and other measures to confuse and disrupt the enemy are the sorts of approaches that are going to be developed over the next decades, driven by cutting-edge science,” he writes.

Such advancements are at the heart of “The Bourne Legacy.” Jeremy Renner plays Aaron Cross, a super agent who has benefited from the government’s top-secret medical research; Rachel Weisz is the doctor who helped develop the science and Edward Norton acts as the kingpin, a sort of corporate-military-intelligence hybrid, who tries to control it all.

Gilroy talked with The Associated Press about his inspiration for the story and why truth can be stranger than fiction.

AP: How did you go about broadening the “Bourne” world?

Gilroy: There needed to be a pulling back the curtain, a much larger conspiracy. Edward Norton has his agency that he’s carved out there at the center of the Beltway, and (we) found a niche for him in the military-industrial-corporate espinocracy food chain, found a good place for his agency to fit. ... It has all of the funding and all of the motivation and all of the secrecy that we would expect with a government program, but then it has all the lack of oversight, the human error, that we know always comes with everything. So we set Edward’s agency there, in that sort of sweet spot there...

AP: Did you discover anything so far-fetched that moviegoers might not believe is true?

Gilroy: I wanted to keep everything really kitchen sink-y and crude and authentic and real and did not want to have it feel science-fiction, and I knew that what we were talking about is really on the way here or certainly a lot of people have it up on the chalkboard. ... The thing that seemed most applicable to me and that helped me most in my story was gene doping, genomic alteration. That was a little bit sexier and a little more on the horizon than some of the other things. It’s kind of fascinating, in the last month, since the Olympics have come up, I’ve seen two mainstream articles—the scientists who are responsible for doing all the drug testing for all the athletes, that’s their cutting edge. That’s their next (question), how do we monitor gene doping. And they don’t know how to do it and it’s really fascinating. The scenario is they introduce chromosomal gene doping through a synthetic virus. And that’s happening now. That’s what Olympic doctors are worried about...

AP: Writing the three previous “Bourne” movies must have made stepping into the director’s role more thrilling.

Gilroy: With the trepidation of not wanting to have people think that you’re doing science fiction. We’re not really going for any suspension of disbelief here, so it’s a little bit tricky to try to convince everybody that this is really on somebody’s menu.

AP: After all your research in this area, has anyone from the intelligence community ever contacted you, either admiringly or threateningly?

Gilroy: No. I have some other friends who troll the same sort of espionage porn that I do and dig around, and we always wonder if we’re entering this number of search words all the time, what metrics are you entering into in some gathering site somewhere? I don’t know. I don’t think that’s overly paranoid. But no one’s ever contacted me.

Travis 911 call: ‘I want to say he had no shirt’

DALLAS (AP)—Country singer Randy Travis was lying in the middle of the road with no car in sight when another driver spotted him and called 911, according to a recording released Thursday.

“I just found a guy laying in the road,” the caller said in a recording released by the Grayson County Sheriff’s Office. He added later, “I want to say he had no shirt on, but I don’t know.”

Officials said Travis was naked and threatened to kill state troopers when he was arrested late Tuesday night. He was charged with driving while intoxicated and retaliation or obstruction, and released Wednesday on $21,500 bond from the jail in Sherman, about 60 miles north of Dallas.

A mug shot showed a battered-looking Travis in a T-shirt, with a black eye and dried blood on his face. He later walked barefoot out of the county jail wearing scrubs and a University of Texas ball cap.

The 911 caller did not identify Travis by name and said he at first thought the body belonged to a deer. “I’m spooked out,” he said. “I don’t see a vehicle, there’s a couple of cones scattered.”

A representative for Travis said there would be no comment Thursday.

It was the second Texas arrest involving alcohol this year for the Grammy-winning singer, who was cited in February for public intoxication.

AP

Randy Travis, far right exits the Grayson County jail with two unknown persons Wednesday Aug. 8, 2012, in Sherman, Texas, after being arraigned on charges of driving while intoxicated and retaliation.

The sheriff’s office in Grayson County, located in far North Texas along the border with Oklahoma, received the 911 call at 11:18 p.m. Tuesday from west of Tioga, where the entertainer lives.

Texas troopers responding to the scene said a Pontiac Trans Am registered to the 53-year-old Travis had been driven off the road and struck several barricades in a construction road.

Travis was not wearing clothes and made threats against the Texas troopers, said Tom Vinger, a Department of Public Safety spokesman. He said the singer refused sobriety tests, so a blood specimen was taken.

“Travis had a strong odor of alcoholic beverage on his breath and several signs of intoxication,” according to a statement from the sheriff’s office. “While Travis was being transported, Travis made threats to shoot and kill the troopers working the case.”

Asked how Travis suffered his facial injuries, Vinger told the AP “I know the vehicle suffered significant damage to the front end during the wreck.”

District Attorney Joe Brown said the felony retaliation or obstruction charge could be referred to a grand jury within a month or six weeks, while the DWI case could be filed as soon as prosecutors decide whether to proceed. The felony count carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and/or a fine of up to $10,000.

It’s been a rocky couple of years for Travis, a North Carolina native best known for hit songs like “Is It Still Over?” and “On the Other Hand.” He divorced Elizabeth Travis in 2010 after 19 years, but retained her services as his manager, a role she held for more than three decades.

Earlier this year, though, Elizabeth Travis filed a lawsuit claiming that Randy Travis made it impossible for her to do her job and terminated her management contract without proper notice. Randy Travis countersued in May, accusing his ex-wife of divulging confidential information about him to damage his reputation and career.

Initially turned down by Music Row, Travis found success in the mid-1980s and became a pivotal and important figure in country music. Initially considered too country, his deep-voice traditional style inspired millions to buy his albums and artists like Alan Jackson to follow his lead.

He’s charted 16 No. 1 country singles and remains an influence for many in Nashville.

AP

In this April 8, 2010 file photo, musician Rick Springfield arrives at the premiere of “The Joneses” in Los Angeles.

Rick Springfield pleads no contest in DUI case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Rick Springfield has pleaded no contest to reckless driving and will serve probation to end a drunken driving case filed after his arrest last year.

The rocker’s attorney Philip Cohen entered the plea to a misdemeanor charge of reckless driving “with driving under the influence conditions” Thursday in Malibu. The singer initially faced drunken driving charges, but the revised charge doesn’t include any allegation of alcohol impairment.

The “Jessie’s Girl” singer was arrested in May 2011 after deputies spotted him speeding in his 1963 Corvette on Pacific Coast Highway.

District attorney’s spokeswoman Jane Robison says Springfield will be on informal probation for three years and is required to attend a three-month alcohol education program.

Springfield didn’t attend Thursday’s court hearing.

Billy Crystal writing book on aging

NEW YORK (AP)—He has lived many, many Sundays.

Turning 65 next year doesn't only mean more nap time for Billy Crystal. The actor and comedian is transforming the milestone into a book, and maybe even a stage show.

Crystal has an agreement with Henry Holt and Company for a book that will be part memoir, part meditation—with jokes—about getting older. Financial terms were not disclosed, but an official with knowledge of the negotiations said the deal was worth around $4 million. The official was not authorized to discuss terms and spoke on condition of anonymity. Multiple publishers were interested in the book.

During a recent telephone interview with The Associated Press, Crystal said that he hoped to have it out around the time the big day arrives, March 14, 2013.

"There are 77 million of us baby boomers in the country and this book will speak to them and how we look at the world," he said.

AP

This Feb. 26, 2012 file photo shows Billy Crystal arriving at the Vanity Fair Oscar party in West Hollywood, Calif.

The book is currently untitled: "We have a dirty title, and a sincere title," he explained. Crystal said he expects to work on it throughout the summer and have the manuscript done by the beginning of November. He's considering adapting the book for the stage. Crystal had enormous success with the Tony Award-winning "700 Sundays," his one-man theater show that paid tribute to his late father with whom Crystal has said he spent 700 Sundays. Crystal has written several previous books, including children's stories and an adaptation of "700 Sundays."

Crystal has made a career out of turning his life into comedy. "City Slickers" was a story of mid-life crisis, and an upcoming film, "Parental Guidance," stars Crystal and Bette Midler as grandparents, based on Crystal's experiences with his own grandchildren. He is one of the world's busier almost-senior citizens, also working on a prequel to "Monsters Inc." and a possible candidate for another shot at hosting the Oscars.

The new book will be around 300-350 pages ("the print will be 4 inches high") and will be edited by Gillian Blake, who worked on Rob Lowe's best-selling "Stories I Only Tell My Friends." In a statement released by Holt on Wednesday, Blake said that "It's not every day you laugh out loud at your desk while reading a book proposal."

Crystal said he was currently breaking down his life into decades: "My 20s and 30s and 40s and 50s."

He stopped and laughed. "That's a lot of decades."

Eminem to fans: Thanks for help in dark times

NEW YORK (AP)—Eminem, who battled an addiction to prescription drugs, thanked his fans at a New York concert for helping him get through dark times.

The 39-year-old told hundreds Thursday night that he "wouldn't have gotten out of that dark place without y'all" before he performed the Grammy-winning song "Not Afraid." He said the performance was "dedicated to anybody tonight who's been through personal struggles."

Eminem's addiction and climb to sobriety is detailed in his 2010 album "Recovery." It was that year's best-selling album.

At the Hammerstein Ballroom the rapper performed more than a dozen songs at an event for the watch brand G-Shock, including the hits "Lose Yourself," "Love the Way You Lie" and "The Real Slim Shady."

Hip-hop foursome Slaughterhouse opened for the Detroit-born rapper.

Kiss, Motley Crue give to theater shooting victims

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—Motley Crue and Kiss are donating money to support those affected by the Colorado movie theater shootings.

The bands said at their concert in suburban Denver on Wednesday night that they would donate $100,000 to the Aurora Victim Relief Fund.

The fund was set up to help victims and families who were hurt when a man opened fire July 20 at a midnight showing of the new Batman movie in Aurora. Twelve people were killed, and 58 were injured.

Nikki Sixx of Motley Crue and Paul Stanley of Kiss said in a written statement that they hope their gesture will encourage others to give.

Travolta, Spielberg light up Foreign Press lunch

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Steven Spielberg talked movies with Harvey Weinstein. John Travolta chatted with Bradley Cooper. Dustin Hoffman and Jack Black shared cellphone photos.

Those stars, along with Kerry Washington, Jennifer Lawrence, Kelsey Grammer, Christina Hendricks and others, lit up the Hollywood Foreign Press Association's annual summer luncheon Thursday at the Beverly Hills Hotel, where the group behind the Golden Globe Awards presented grants and introduced its officers for the coming year.

The stars helped present and accept $1.2 million in grants from the association to organizations around the country that promote film education and preservation. The Sundance Institute, Film Foundation and American Film Institute were among 40 nonprofit beneficiaries of grants this year.

But the organization's annual luncheon was really about schmoozing with the stars.

"I loved your movie," Weinstein said to Travolta, who stars in Oliver Stone's marijuana drama "Savages." "I thought your movie was great."

Meanwhile, Hoffman and Black swapped snaps on their iPhones as Washington and Hendricks posed for a photo.

"I am here to get nominated," Hoffman joked as he took the stage. He told the audience he had just turned 75.

"Dustin's 75 and he looks great; I'm 57 and I look like hell!" said the grey-bearded Grammer, who sat with his new wife, Kayte.

Don Johnson was practically unrecognizable with a newly taut face and his long hair wrapped into a bun. He referred to "Scandal" star Washington as "poised, delicious and divine."

Washington said from the stage that she'd gotten close to Black during the luncheon.

"I'm going to call him my dear friend because of the things we've shared this afternoon," she said of the comedian.

AP

Kerry Washington attends the Hollywood Foreign Press Association luncheon at the Beverly Hills Hotel on Thursday, Aug. 9, 2012, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Black addressed Spielberg from the podium: "'Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Killer' looks incredible," the funnyman said to the director of "Lincoln," a different movie.

Lawrence also joked with the legendary filmmaker.

"I just had to follow Steven Spielberg," she said when she took the stage. "Or you opened for me, actually."

The president of the association, Aida Takla-O'Reilly, also poked fun at the filmmaker, saying the luncheon was especially memorable for her.

"This is the day Steven Spielberg pulled my scarf out of the soup and wiped it for me," she said.

Spielberg thanked the organization for its support of film-preservation efforts that totaled $3.6 million over the past 16 years. Film is "mankind's most original medium," he said.

The Hollywood Foreign Press Association has given nearly $15 million in grants over the past 18 years from profits generated by the Golden Globe Awards telecast. The 2013 Golden Globes are set for Jan. 13.

Teacher needs cheat-sheet to recall former students

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I have been teaching for 30 years in the same school district. I can't tell you how many times 30- to 45-year-old men have come up to me and said, "You don't remember me, do you?" When they were in elementary school, they were not sporting facial hair and didn't have receding hairlines. Still, I feel bad not being able to make their day by spouting off their first and last names.

All of my students are special to me. However, although some of these men attended my school, not all of them were in my classroom. I'm flattered they recognize me, but what's the best way to respond in a situation like this?

Also, could you give your readers some suggestions about how to approach former educators so we won't have to rummage frantically through the file cabinets of our brains trying to decide which child from the past this grown-up might be?

STRUGGLING TO RECALL IN ARKANSAS

DEAR STRUGGLING: When someone approaches you and says, "You don't remember me, do you?" an appropriate response would be, "Refresh my memory!" Said with a smile, it shouldn't be offensive.

This potentially embarrassing problem can easily be avoided if the former student simply says, "Mrs. Jones, it's so nice to see you. I'm 'John Smith' and you were my teacher in 1991."

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: We have some neighbors who recently bought a large parrot they keep in a cage in their backyard. This bird squawks so loudly we can hear it inside our home with the windows closed, and we are no longer able to enjoy our own backyard or patio.

Their yard is fenced in, so I haven't met or even seen these neighbors. For the life of me, I cannot understand how someone could subject others to this kind of intrusion. It is so disrespectful. We can only assume the bird is kept outside so they don't have to listen to its loud screeching inside their own home.

The bird squawks loudly about every 10 to 15 seconds and it goes on for hours—usually in the mornings and evenings. My nerves are rattled and I'm not sure how much more of this I can take. I hesitate to call the authorities because I am worried about the consequences. What would you suggest?

FOR THE BIRDS IN FLORIDA

DEAR F.T.B.: Unfortunately, some people decide to buy parrots without first researching what's involved in their proper care and maintenance. Parrots are gregarious creatures and must be kept socialized with another parrot or with the humans who care for them. They also require mental stimulation to remain psychologically healthy.

Because their natural habitat is the rainforest, they have loud voices so they can communicate over long distances. Your neighbors obviously didn't take that into consideration when they bought the bird and decided to house it outside.

Inform them politely about the noise problem their bird is creating and ask that they house it inside. If they refuse, inform the Humane Society or the local Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals to ensure that the enclosure is being kept clean, and that the bird is being fed a healthy diet and has access to clean water. As a last resort, if necessary, inform local law enforcement that your neighbor's parrot is creating a sound nuisance.

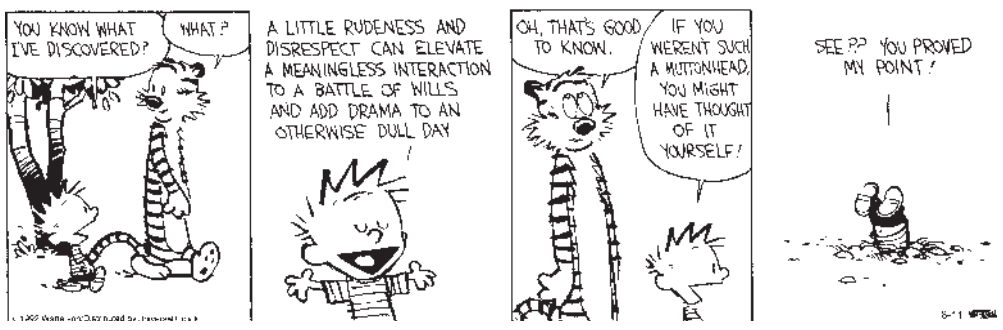
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

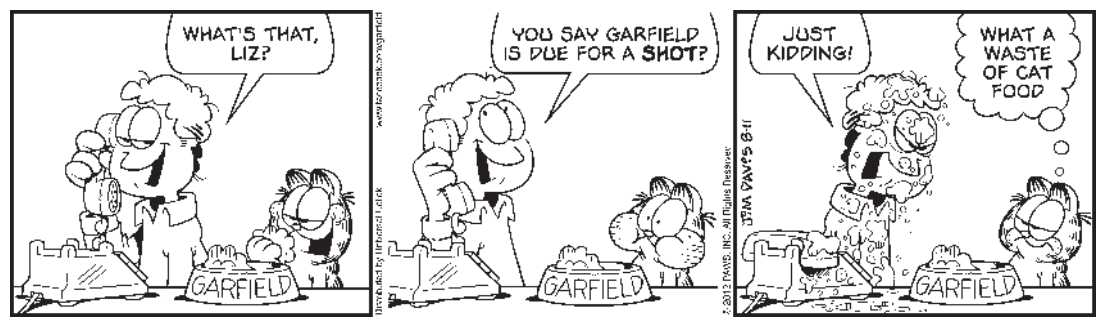
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


YOU KNOW WHAT I'VE DISCOVERED?
WHAT?
A LITTLE RUDENESS AND DISRESPECT CAN ELEVATE A MEANINGLESS INTERACTION TO A BATTLE OF WILLS AND ADD DRAMA TO AN OTHERWISE DULL DAY
OH, THAT'S GOOD TO KNOW.
IF YOU WEREN'T SUCH A MUTTONHEAD, YOU MIGHT HAVE THOUGHT OF IT YOURSELF!
SEE?? YOU PROVED MY POINT!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



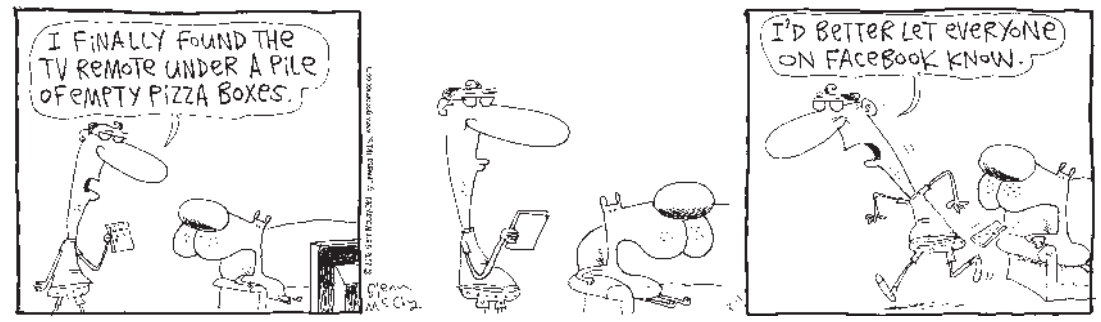
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

A LITTLE CLIP HERE. A LITTLE CLIP THERE.
SZSZSZ.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, DAD?
AHHH! NO NEED TO SHOUT. I'M JUST TRIMMING MY EAR HAIR.
HUH? I'M NOT SHOUTING.
OUCH... QUIETER, PLEASE.
WOW. YOU MUST HAVE CLIPPED AWAY A PROTECTIVE AUDIO BARRIER.
PLEASE BE QUIET, PLEASE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

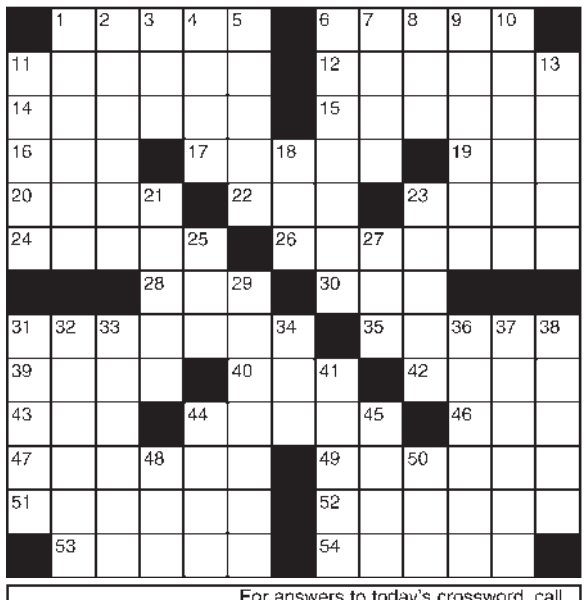
ACROSS
1 A great amount
6 Construction piece
11 "Evangeline" setting
12 Housefly larva
14 Street less traveled
15 Past
16 Salt Lake athlete
17 He hit 61 in '61
19 Scooted
20 Afterward
22 Three-man vessel?
23 Lose color
24 Helvetica lack
26 Most goose-bump-inducing
28 NOW goal
30 Slight touch
31 Run off (with)
35 "Loves me (not)" factor
39 "The Amazing —"
40 Bother
42 Post-bout garb
43 Whatever number
44 So far
46 Sheepish remark
47 News-writer's name
49 Circumvent
51 Lens cleaning solution
52 Culmination
53 Water nymph
54 Philippine knives

DOWN
1 Grim Reaper's tool
2 Life's work
3 Commotion
4 Dist. across a circle
5 Begin's co-Nobelist
6 Drank up
7 Serenades the moon
8 Early bird
9 Olden meeting places
10 Units
11 Touches
13 Fundamental belief
18 Wish undone
21 Family member
23 Thread
25 To and —
27 Knock
29 Pastis flavoring
31 Speedy steeds
32 East Indian fig tree
33 Charybdis' partner
34 Desiccate
36 Trinidad and —
37 Humiliates
38 Flat paper?
41 Skewered entree
44 "— Karenina"
45 Proofreader's nightmare
48 Midafternoon hour
50 Campaign pro

Solution time: 27 mins.

A	S	P	E	N		R	A	M		C	P	A
L	L	A	M	A		A	L	I		H	A	P
L	Y	R	I	C		P	A	R	Q	U	E	T
		S	T	R	A	P	S		U	R	A	L
Z	E	N		E	W	E		P	E	N	N	Y
A	M	I	S		A	R	R	O	Z			
G	O	P	H	E	R		E	L	O	P	E	D
			A	R	D	O	R		N	A	M	E
T	I	A	R	A		R	U	S		R	U	B
A	N	T	I		M	A	N	T	R	A		
P	A	R	F	A	I	T		R	I	D	E	S
A	N	I		P	R	O		A	G	O	R	A
S	E	A		E	A	R		W	A	X	E	D

Yesterday's answer 8-11



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99c per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Chris Hemsworth, 29; Ashley Jensen, 43; Viola Davis, 47; Hulk Hogan, 59.

Happy Birthday: Do something unique. Look at your options and pick a path that allows you to use your talents to accomplish worthwhile goals. Diversify and you will find an interesting way to make extra cash. Avoid unequal or financially burdensome partnerships. Keeping things honest will be required. Your numbers are 3, 19, 22, 31, 35, 44, 47.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Contact people who can help you fulfill your responsibilities. Greater options will be made available to you if you network with people who share your interests or work in your industry. Compromise will bring just results. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't let the past stand in your way. Holding a grudge will not bode well with friends, relatives or colleagues. Someone will misinform you if you are difficult to deal with. A change of attitude will bring good results and greater popularity. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Opportunity can bring you the help needed to establish a stronger personal and professional position. Face emotional matters head-on. Avoiding a necessary conversation will worsen matters. An unusual professional change is heading your way. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Lifestyle changes may not be your idea of fun, but in the end you will realize that accepting the inevitable is best. Listen for any information you can gather regarding a touchy subject or a problem with someone withholding information. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): The rewards you receive from helping others will far exceed what you've given emotionally, mentally and physically; however, when it comes to your finances, don't feel the need to donate cash. It's what you do, not what you give, that counts. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't be too obliging when it comes to personal information. Not everyone will be open and honest about position, status and intentions. Ulterior motives are apparent, and a less trusting approach will spare you making an unfortunate assumption. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You must get busy digging up the information you require to initiate personal changes before you proceed. Taking a chance or trusting that someone has exceptional skills will not pan out well. Your physical well-being will be at risk. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Watch what's going on around you. Don't divulge information that may be used against you. Focus on your assets, financial investments and making your home a place of comfort and beauty. Don't believe everything you hear. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Getting together with friends or people who share a common interest or concern will lead to favorable changes to your home and lifestyle. Greater opportunity will come through the partnerships you form now. Embrace challenge and adventure. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Observe what everyone else does before you decide to make a move or commit to something that may not be to your benefit. A love relationship must be dealt with carefully, or an unforeseen change will leave you in a vulnerable position. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Be inventive when it comes to socializing or dealing with children or peers. Follow your heart, and you will alleviate any confusion you've been feeling. Take on extra work. A change at home should be conducive to raising your income. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): An emotional confrontation will not fix the problem. Money or a gift is heading your way and will help bring you greater clarity as to what changes you need to make in the future regarding your home and love life. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are interesting, curious and inventive. You are flirtatious and popular.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		4		1		3		
	7		6		3		1	
6								2
	9						5	
1				2				4
	8						3	
7								3
	2		4		5		9	
		3		8		4		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 8/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	3	9	6	8	2	4	7	1
6	7	4	1	3	9	2	5	8
8	2	1	7	5	4	3	6	9
4	5	2	9	6	8	1	3	7
3	6	8	2	7	1	9	4	5
1	9	7	3	4	5	8	2	6
2	4	6	8	1	7	5	9	3
9	1	3	5	2	6	7	8	4
7	8	5	4	9	3	6	1	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 8/11

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

OLYMPICS CLOSING CEREMONIES TOMORROW Solution: 8 letters

P	C	G	N	I	H	S	I	U	G	N	I	T	X	E
R	E	L	O	N	D	O	N	O	I	T	A	N	D	E
E	R	R	O	A	Y	M	S	E	R	I	S	O	E	T
S	E	O	F	S	L	T	A	T	R	O	G	I	R	T
I	M	S	I	O	I	G	R	E	E	D	A	S	O	I
D	O	T	R	R	R	N	E	A	T	D	L	S	N	M
E	N	R	E	C	E	M	G	X	P	S	F	I	O	M
N	I	U	W	H	U	E	A	D	C	U	I	M	H	O
T	E	M	O	E	E	L	T	N	N	I	H	T	G	C
S	S	S	R	S	M	I	T	N	C	A	T	S	R	A
U	T	O	K	T	A	F	Y	U	U	E	B	I	A	A
G	H	N	S	R	L	E	A	D	R	L	S	Ⓛ	N	M
U	E	G	M	A	F	I	N	A	L	E	O	Ⓘ	D	G
A	M	S	P	E	E	C	H	E	S	G	A	Ⓥ	I	N
R	E	V	O	D	N	A	H	C	R	A	M	Ⓔ	E	S

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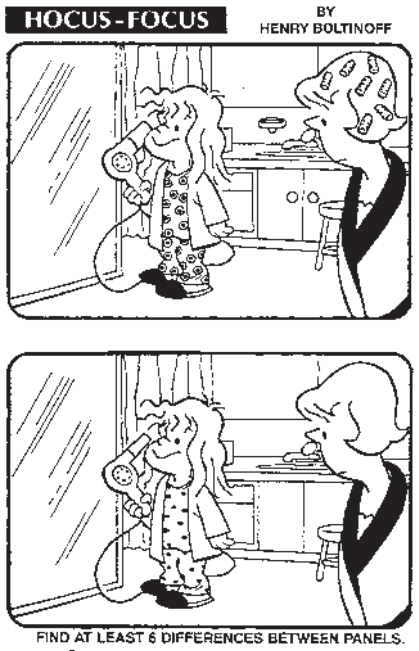
Artist, August, Band, Ceremonies, Children, Closing, Committee, Culture, Exciting, Extinguishing, Finale, Fireworks, Flags, Flame, Funny, Gavin, Goal, Grand, Handover, Honored, Hosted, Lead, Life, Live, London, March, Mash Up, Mission, Nation, Orchestra, Party, Performances, President, Rostrum, Songs, Speeches, Team, Theme, Volunteer

Yesterday's Answer: Dressage

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



FIND AT LEAST 6 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS.

Differences: 1. Bowler is different. 2. PJ's are different. 3. Soap dish is missing. 4. Handles are missing. 5. Stool is lower. 6. Curtains are missing.

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Wishing Well®

4	8	7	4	5	3	4	2	4	2	7	8	4
A	L	C	W	A	I	O	G	N	O	A	O	D
6	4	8	3	2	5	8	4	3	8	2	4	2
C	E	V	D	O	S	E	R	E	E	D	F	N
7	5	3	5	3	6	3	5	6	3	4	7	4
U	W	A	I	L	H	S	T	A	R	U	T	L
7	2	7	5	3	7	6	8	5	2	7	8	6
I	E	O	C	E	N	N	X	H	W	A	T	N
7	5	3	2	5	4	8	3	4	5	4	5	3
D	T	A	S	O	D	E	L	A	S	Y	U	I
6	5	6	3	6	8	6	5	7	6	7	8	7
E	C	L	Z	D	N	E	C	V	S	I	D	S
6	3	7	3	5	6	7	8	6	8	6	5	5
I	E	E	D	E	R	D	E	E	D	S	S	S

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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Super Crossword

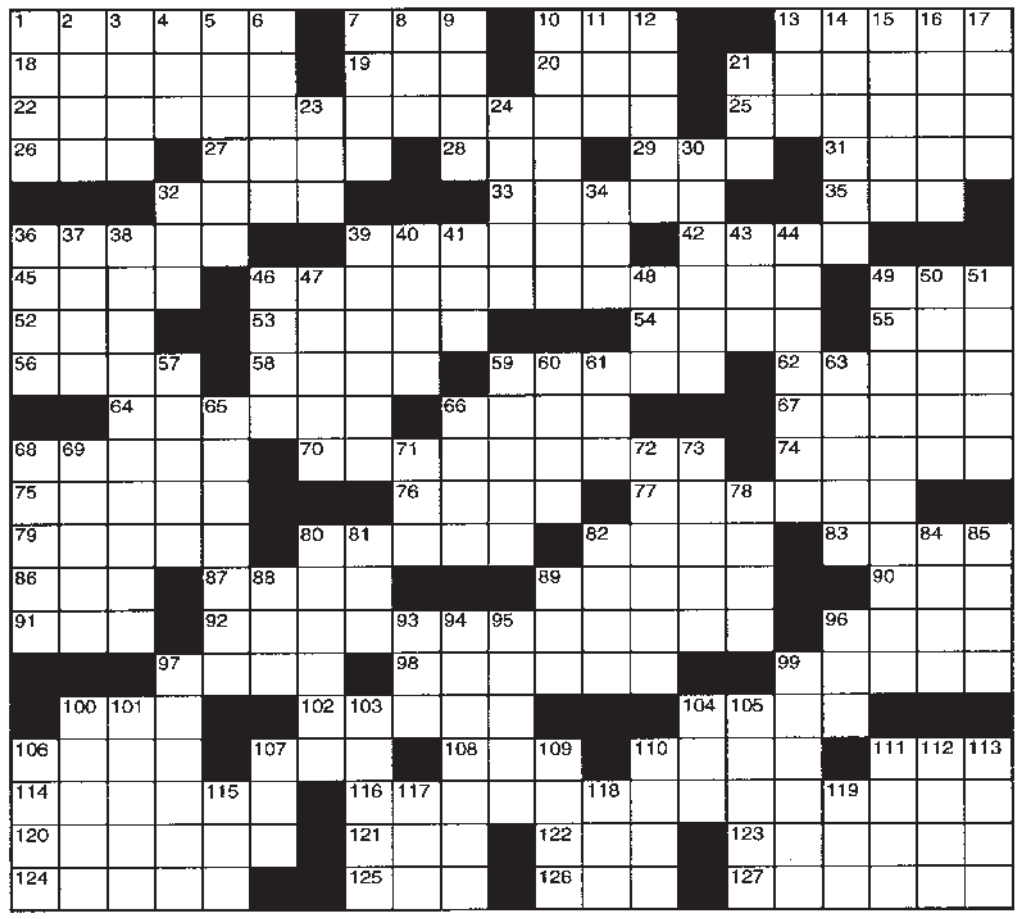
SOFT TOUCH

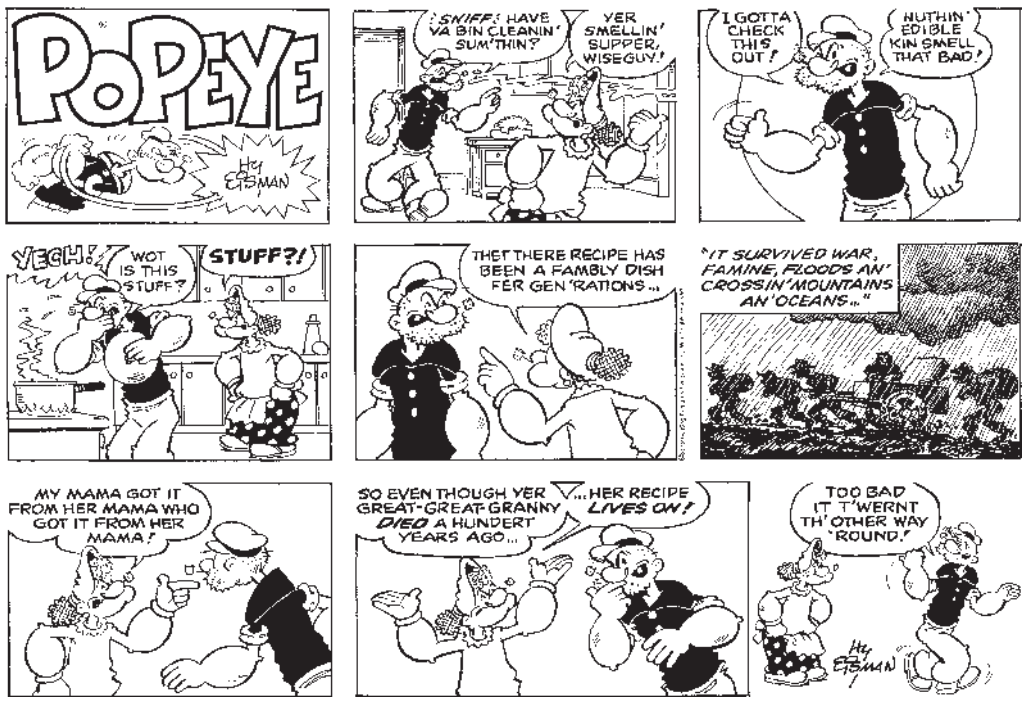
ACROSS

1 Picker-uppers
7 Mr. Ziegfeld
10 Bread spread
13 Actress Laurie
18 Conductor Toscanini
19 Word with corn or snake
20 Mr. Baba
21 Scavullo's equipment
22 Elizabeth Taylor movie
25 Hudson River city
26 Day- —
27 Rock's — Floyd
28 "Holy cow!"
29 Use the microwave
31 "Topaz" author
32 Gab
33 Football's Matson
35 Pupil's place
36 Energetic
39 '64 Hitchcock film
42 Way
45 Steber solo
46 English racer
49 Arkansas hrs.
52 West's "Diamond —"
53 Presses
54 Help in a heist
55 Cry of discovery
56 Blend
58 — -chef
59 "Die Fledermaus" maid
62 Word form for "bone"
64 Fancy
66 Sailing
67 "Wait — Dark" ('67 film)
68 Comic Mandel
70 Bribe-to-be
74 Recesses
75 Pays to play
76 Manuscript imperative
77 Peter's partner
79 Smallest
80 Fiery felony
82 Atmosphere
83 Ridicule
86 Bisoglio or Kilmer
87 Perry's creator
89 "—, you'll like it!"
90 Laudatory verse
91 Wapiti
92 Jason's quest
96 "Uptown Girl" singer
97 Screenwriter James
98 Big-billed bird
99 Power a trike
100 On the — (fleeing)
102 Composer Telemann
104 Moira Shearer, for one
106 Mrs. Zeus
107 Sniggler's quarry
108 Humor
110 Actress Arlene
111 Salon request
114 Hammed up "Hamlet"
116 Some boxers
120 Helen Hunt Jackson novel
121 Unwell
122 Hosp. area
123 Layers
124 Musty
125 Relative of -ist
126 — de plume
127 Tailor's apparatus

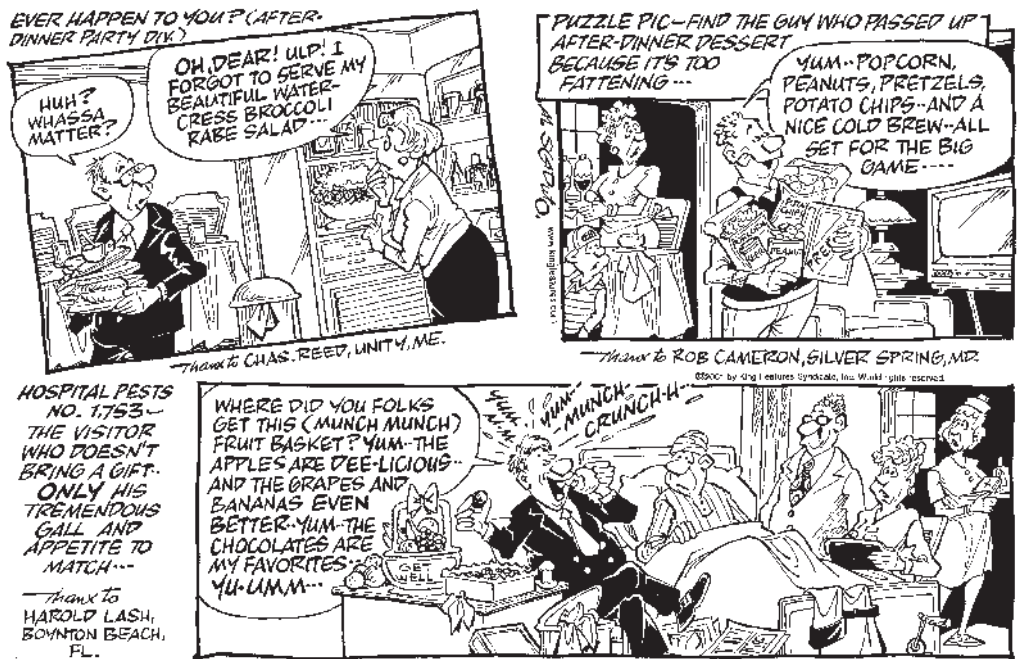
DOWN

1 Din from dynamite
2 Articulated
3 Director Preminger
4 "— generis"
5 Award
6 Sanchez or Braga
7 — dance
8 Actress Ullmann
9 First name in fashion
10 Field event
11 Flagon filler
12 Actress Gaynor
13 Crony
14 Permeated
15 Pole star?
16 Banks of baseball
17 Sunshine, slangily
21 Mushroom part
23 Farm animal
24 Tea of "Deep Impact"
30 Certain bacterium
32 Numbers man?
34 Part of a triangle
36 Reading matter?
37 Part of HOMES
38 Doris Day movie
39 Writer de Cervantes
40 Olympic hawk
41 "Kidnapped" monogram
43 Sugary suffix
44 Flabbergast
46 Iranian city
47 Moves like a Morgan
48 "— de mer"
49 Certain poplar
50 Arabian chieftain
51 Hoes and hammers
57 Produces prunes
59 Wan
60 Adroit
61 — Claire, WI
63 A nose that shows
65 IRA, e.g.
66 Concerning
68 Bisect
69 Hoopster Shaquille
71 Nav. designation
72 Vietnam's — Van Thieu
73 Column style
78 Figure of interest?
80 Accuse tentatively
81 Florid
82 Length X width
84 Scheme
85 Relate
88 Salty spread
89 RN's specialty
93 Ike's domain
94 Connecticut city
95 "Tempus —"
96 Gush
97 Explosive mixture
99 Considerate
100 Paul of "American Graffiti"
101 Lunch-eonette lure
103 Wee
104 Shorten a slat
105 Karpov's game
106 Towel word
107 Author LaShan
109 Svelte
110 Grass' "The Tin —"
111 Kind of carpet
112 Major conclusion
113 Obsolete title
115 Chemical ending
117 Ivy Leaguer
118 Author Umberto
119 Kennel threat




POPEYE
Hy EISMAN
SNIFF! HAVE VA BIN CLEANIN' SUM'THIN?
YER SMELLIN' SUPPER, WISEGUY!
I GOTTA CHECK THIS OUT!
NUTHIN' EDIBLE KIN SMELL THAT BAD!
YECH! WOT IS THIS STUFF?
STUFF?!
THET THERE RECIPE HAS BEEN A FAMBLY DISH FER GEN'RATIONS...
"IT SURVIVED WAR, FAMINE, FLOODS AN' CROSSIN' MOUNTAINS AN' OCEANS..."
MY MAMA GOT IT FROM HER MAMA WHO GOT IT FROM HER MAMA!
SO EVEN THOUGH YER GREAT-GREAT-GRANNY DIED A HUNDERT YEARS AGO...
...HER RECIPE LIVES ON!
TOO BAD IT T'WERNT TH' OTHER WAY 'ROUND.'

They'll Do It Every Time — by Al Scaduto


EVER HAPPEN TO YOU? (AFTER-DINNER PARTY D(K)
HUH? WHASSA MATTER?
OH, DEAR! ULP! I FORGOT TO SERVE MY BEAUTIFUL WATER-CRESS BROCCOLI RABE SALAD...
Thanks to CHAS. REED, UNITY, ME.
PUZZLE PIC—FIND THE GUY WHO PASSED UP AFTER-DINNER DESSERT BECAUSE IT'S TOO FATTENING...
YUM--POPCORN, PEANUTS, PRETZELS, POTATO CHIPS--AND A NICE COLD BREW--ALL SET FOR THE BIG GAME....
Thanks to ROB CAMERON, SILVER SPRING, MD.
HOSPITAL PESTS NO. 1,753— THE VISITOR WHO DOESN'T BRING A GIFT. ONLY HIS TREMENDOUS GALL AND APPETITE TO MATCH...
Thanks to HAROLD LASH, BOYNTON BEACH, FL.
WHERE DID YOU FOLKS GET THIS (MUNCH MUNCH) FRUIT BASKET? YUM--THE APPLES ARE DEE-LICIOUS.. AND THE GRAPES AND BANANAS EVEN BETTER..YUM-THE CHOCOLATES ARE MY FAVORITES..YU-UM-M...
GET WELL
YUM-MUNCH-CRUNCH-H...

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. LANGUAGE: In English slang, what is a jumper?
2. LITERATURE: What author used the pen name Ellis Bell?
3. SUPERHEROES: Who was the Green Hornet's sidekick?
4. GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of Laos?
5. MUSIC: The film "Rhapsody in Blue" was a biographical movie about what composer?
6. MOVIES: Who wrote the music score to the movie "Jaws"?
7. AD SLOGANS: "You can trust your car to the man who wears the star" was an advertising slogan of what company?
8. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What was the original name of the island that is home to the Statue of Liberty?
9. TELEVISION: What sport is featured in the series "Friday Night Lights"?
10. RELIGION: What is the color of the skullcaps worn by Catholic bishops?

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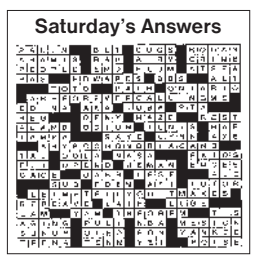
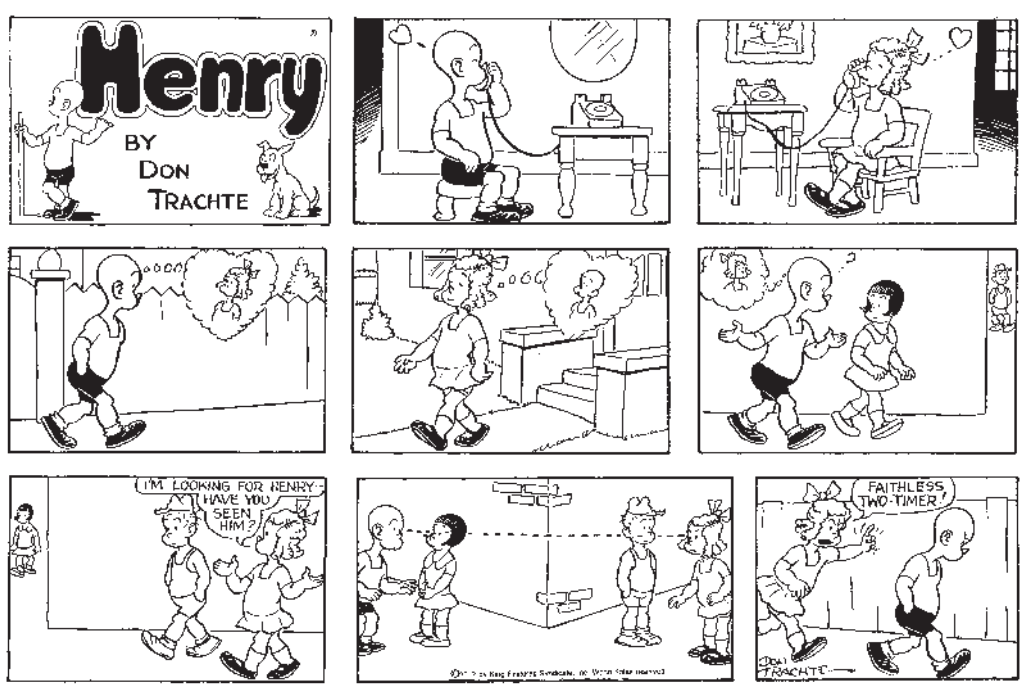
Answers

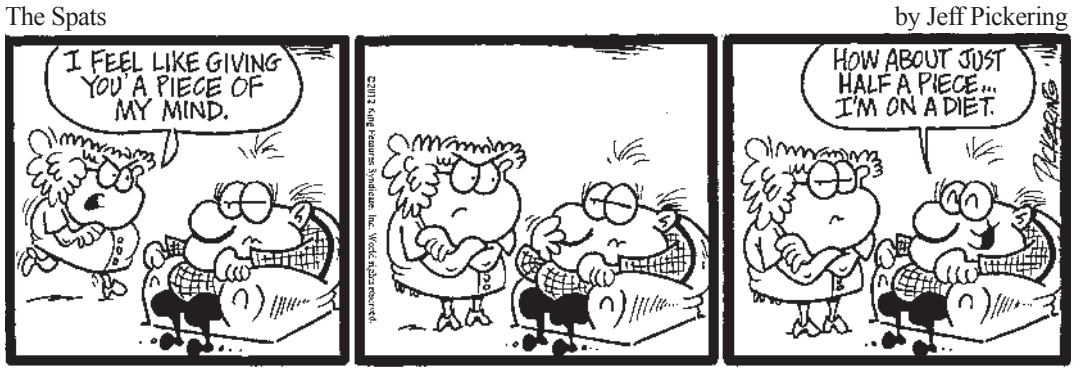
1. A sweater
2. Emily Brontë
3. Kato
4. Ventiane
5. George Gershwin
6. John Williams
7. Texaco
8. Bedloe's Island
9. High school football
10. Purple

Saturday's Answers





The Spats — by Jeff Pickering



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• 5-Liner	$24	$39
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• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

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- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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M&J BEAUTY SALON
Massage (60 mins) $15.00
Facial Care for $15.00
Manicure & Pedicure starting at $5.00
In front of PIC Z Bldg. • 10:30am - 9:30pm
Tel #s: 888-1354, 234-8855

QQ RENT A CAR
Starting as low as... $29.99 without Insurance
Call: 233-8855, 483-8866 or 233-8866
$100 Security Deposit Required
Garapan • Susupe • San Antonio
Some conditions may apply

DFS SAIPAN LIMITED has a job opening for

Talent Management Manager

Primary function:

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Position Requirements:

- Bachelors Degree in HR Management, Business or equivalent.
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- Integrated HR/Payroll systems experience desirable.
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- Previous sales/retail experience desired.
- Ability to work under high-pressure environment and within stringent deadlines.
- Ability to work with all levels of management and staff, and in a team environment.
- Excellent written and verbal skills.
- Must maintain a high degree of confidentiality.
- Must have a valid driver's license.
- Able to work a flexible schedule.

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Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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Medal count: US extends lead over China

LONDON (AP)—After winning gold medals in the women's soccer and water pool, Team USA has extended its lead over China in the overall medal count on Thursday.

Team USA now has 39 gold medals, 25 silver, and 26 bronze for a total of 90 medals, 10 more than China, which has 37 golds, 24, silvers, and 19 bronzes.

Making it to the Top 5 in the medal count are Russia (12-21-23), host Great Britain (25-13-14), and Germany (10-16-11).

The Americans won the gold medal in the women's soccer after beating Japan, 2-1

Goalkeeper Hope Solo is known almost as much for the controversy she stirs up off the field as she is for the saves she makes on it. But not on Thursday night during the gold medal game against Japan.

Solo was brilliant all night, making several heart-stopping saves to lead the Americans to the victory. The last one came in the closing minutes, when she laid out to her left to stop a point-blank shot.

"Hope Solo, she says a lot on Twitter, I guess. I don't follow her," coach Pia Sundhage said. "But what matters is what kind of team player she is and how she performs. ... Today Hope Solo had a very good game. She brought the gold back to the United States of America."

After her team won gold, U.S. women's soccer coach Pia Sundhage tried to describe the feeling.

"It's happiness," the native of Sweden said. "It's hard to explain in English and it's hard to explain in Swedish, anyway. Just the fact that you're standing in the middle of something huge."

AP

Members of the United States women's water polo team celebrate after winning the gold medal match against Spain at the 2012 Summer Olympics, Thursday, Aug. 9, 2012, in London.

In water polo, Maggie Steffens wanted to make sure Brenda Villa and Heather Petri won that long-elusive gold medal in their last.

The 19-year-old Steffens on Thursday capped a stunning two-week performance in London, scoring five goals to power the U.S. past Spain 8-5 and give the Americans their first ever Olympic women's water polo title.

The win was extra sweet for Villa and Petri, two decorated veterans playing in their last Olympics. They had medaled for the U.S. at every games since women's water polo made its debut in 2000, but had never won gold—until now.

"I am speechless. It still hasn't sunk in," Villa said. "I can't describe it. It's the end of a journey, and I got my fairy-tale ending."

In athletics, when Usain Bolt won the 200 meters, the Twitter world went nuts—so much so that the Jamaican speedster generated another kind of Olympic record.

"Record alert!" Twitter said in a tweet. "(at)usainbolt sets a new Olympic Games conversation record with over 80,000 TPM for his 200m victory."

TPM is Twitterspeak for tweets per minute.

Bolt, who became the only man with two Olympic titles in the 200, has never been shy about his skills.

His Twitter profile says he is "The most naturally gifted athlete the world has ever seen."

Now he has a Twitter record of sorts to add to his "living legend" contention.

In his post-race news conference, where apparently no question is out of bounds, 200-meter champion Usain Bolt was asked what kind of woman might be his type.

"I used to have a type," Bolt said. "I don't have a type anymore. It's all about falling in love. That's what it's all about. If I could find the right girl and fall in love, it doesn't matter. I am looking forward to it, though."

American Ashton Eaton got the gold medal in the decathlon after completing the last event, the 1,500 meters, where he simply needed to finish in an average time to win the event on Thursday night.

The world-record holder cruised over the four laps, crossed the line and—even as exhausted as he was—started celebrating.

Eaton finished the two-day competition with 8,869 points to defeat fellow American Trey Hardee by 198. It's the first time the Americans have gone 1-2 in the Olympic decathlon since Milton Gray Campbell and Rafer Johnson in 1956.

"That's what Trey and I really, really wanted," said Eaton, who's from Eugene, Ore.

Especially this year, on the 100th anniversary of the event. At the 1912 Olympics, Jim Thorpe won the inaugural title.

Thanks to Eaton, the decathlon gold is staying in the United States. Eaton joins 2008 winner Bryan Clay and, of course, Bruce Jenner, in earning the honor as "The World's Greatest Athlete."

In basketball, Manu Ginobili and his Argentine friends better have had several great practices recently.

Argentina lost by 29 points to the American men's basketball team in pool play five days ago. The teams meet again in the semifinals on Friday, with a berth in the gold medal game on the line.

The Americans say they're not taking this one for granted. In Beijing, they beat Spain by 37 points in pool play, then had to fight to scrape by them in the medal round.

"It's never a sure thing," U.S. coach Mike Krzyzewski says.

More on the agenda for 'legendary' Bolt

LONDON (AP)—As far as Usain Bolt is concerned, it's a done deal.

"I'm a legend now," he said.

But these Olympics aren't quite finished. And neither is he.

With the 200-meter gold medal in his pocket after a winning run of 19.32 seconds Thursday night, The World's Fastest Man now gets ready for the 4x100 relay. If he can lead the Jamaicans to a victory there, he'll be 3 for 3 at these Olympics, same way he was in Beijing four years ago.

He'll likely get a day off Friday for the preliminaries, then head back to the track Saturday for the final - his last chance to set a world record, the only thing to elude him over a very fast week at the London Olympics.

The relay mark is 37.10 seconds, the third of three records Bolt set, or helped set, at the Beijing Games.

"I think there's a possibility," Bolt said. "But you can never really say it, because it's a relay and there's a baton. You never know. But for me, we're going to go out, enjoy ourselves, run fast as possible. It would be a good way to close the show again."

What a show he put on Thursday night.

Bolt opened the night, during introductions, by giving a royal wave to the 80,000 fans at Olympic Stadium on hand to see some history.

Then, he ran a race fit for a king.

Burning off the starting line, he took an early lead, then powered around the curve. By the time he reached the straightaway, only Jamaican teammate Yohan Blake had any chance to catch him. Blake actually closed the gap for a moment, but then Bolt reached back and found that fastest gear - the one that has helped him become the first man to win the Olympic 100-200 double twice.

Blake finished second in 19.44 seconds and Warren Weir completed the Jamaican sweep, winning bronze in 19.84.

"That was for all that people that doubted me, all the people that was talking all kinds of stuff that I wasn't going to do it, I was going to be beaten," Bolt said. "I was just telling them: You can stop talking now, because I am a legend."

Another legend, Carl Lewis, has 10 Olympic medals—won in individual races, relays and the long jump over a span of four Olympics—and it's possible Bolt, who has whimsically spoken about trying the long jump, might want to look at reaching that number some day, too. He clearly has no love for Lewis. In the only awkward moment of an otherwise-engaging news conference, Bolt lashed out at Lewis, saying the American spends too much time casting aspersions about the possibility that the Jamaicans are dopers.

Pressure's up on US men's hoops against Argentina

LONDON (AP)—The only way the U.S. men's basketball team fails to reach the gold-medal game is if Argentina figures out how to be 30 points better in five days.

No chance, right?

At the very least, highly unlikely given how easy it's been for the high-scoring Americans during most of their time in London.

Only Lithuania was close to them in the fourth quarter, and when the Argentines managed to hang around for a half two nights later, the U.S. hit them with a 42-17 onslaught in the third quarter that made it a blowout en route to a 29-point victory.

But the Americans remember beating Spain by 37 in pool play four years ago, only to find themselves in a four-point game in the final three minutes a few days later in the gold-medal game. So don't go assuming this will be another laugher.

"It's never a sure thing," U.S. coach Mike Krzyzewski said.

Especially against Argentina.

The Argentines are proud champions, with a core of beloved veterans fighting to go out in glory, a team whose accomplishments are almost on par with the Americans over the last decade.

That's the team the U.S. players are counting on seeing at the North Greenwich Arena.

"We already know what to expect as far as the intensity of this game tomorrow night. They're going to bring it," U.S. forward Carmelo Anthony said.

"We know what to expect from ourselves, we know what we've got to do, we know what's at stake and tomorrow is one of biggest games that we've ever played," he added. "Tomorrow is just about who wants it the most."

It's the third straight Olympic semifinal meeting for the countries, adding to what's been perhaps international basketball's foremost rivalry in the last decade. Argentina beat the U.S. in 2004 en route to the gold medal, two years after a victory in the world basketball championship made the Argentines the first team to beat a U.S. team with NBA players.

The Americans won four years ago in Beijing, have beaten the Argentines twice this summer, and it's almost fitting that they require a stopover to face each other before either can get back to the medal podium.

"For us, it's the semifinals. You don't need other, or you shouldn't need any other motivation," Krzyzewski said. "The fact that they're so good should make us even more prepared."

After six almost-even quarters, the Americans appeared to have solved the Argentines in the third quarter Monday, when Kevin Durant matched Argentina's total with 17 points and the U.S. coasted to a 126-97 victory. Even Manu Ginobili and Luis Scola, who've had as much success against U.S. players as anybody, realize Argentina has no shot in a game played at that pace.

"If we want to have any chance to win the game, that just cannot happen," Scola said. "Not even 120, not even 110, not even 105. We need to put that game in the 90s. That would be pretty much our only chance to win."

The Americans are averaging 118 and haven't been held below 98 in the tournament, so Scola may have to readjust his goals.

But Argentina did make it tough for the U.S. in an exhibition game last month in Barcelona, trimming a 20-point deficit to four before the Americans pulled out an 86-80 victory. And the U.S. led only 60-59 at halftime Monday against an Argentina team that was playing without Pablo Prigioni, its starting point guard who has signed with the New York Knicks.

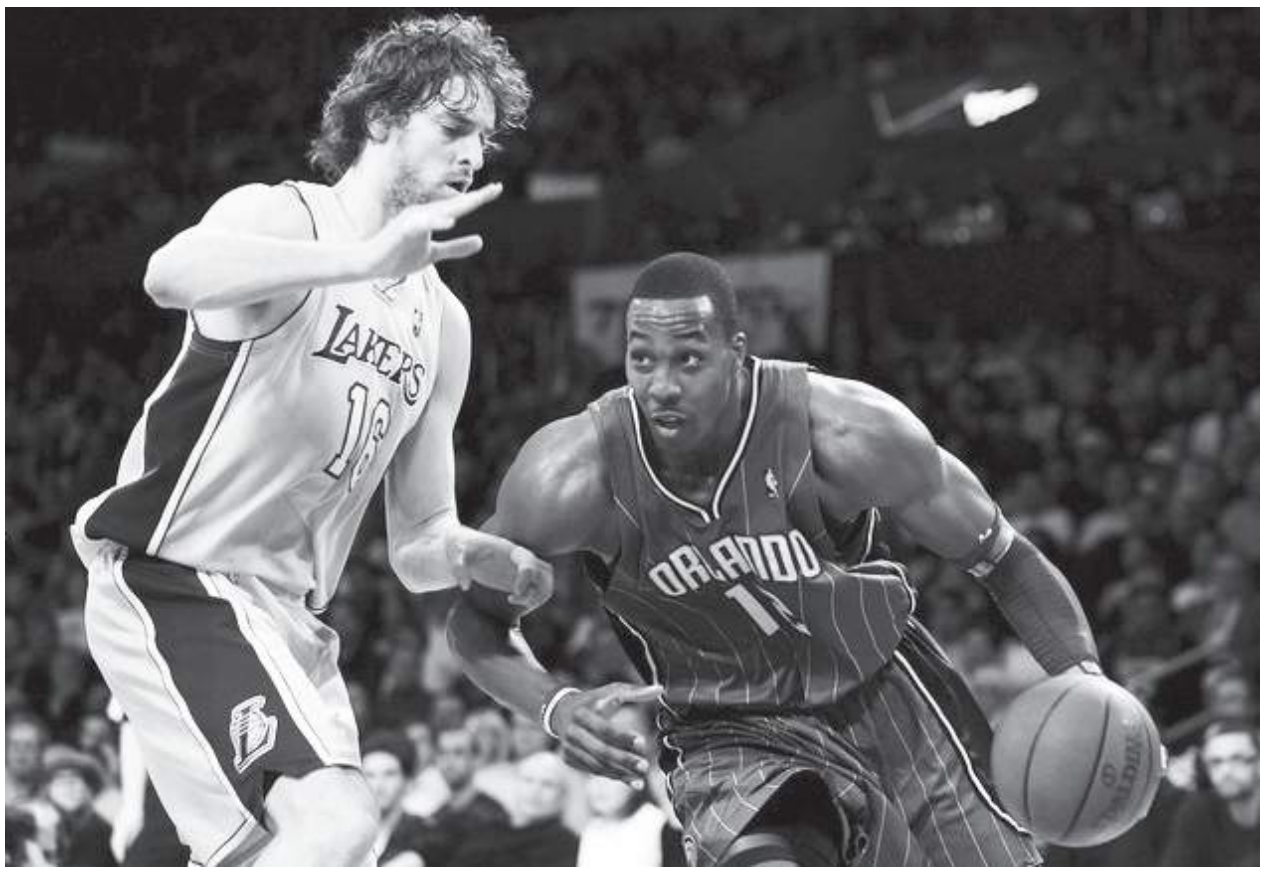
Now back at full strength, Argentina, with cagey and crafty 30-somethings who rely on their minds now as much as their legs, will try to conjure up something to make a turnaround.

"They're smart, they're really good and we just have to be ready for anything," Krzyzewski said.

These Americans seem to have all the answers—Anthony said they have "no weaknesses"—breaking out a weapon they hadn't even needed yet in London when Australia got close in the third quarter of Wednesday's quarterfinal. Kobe Bryant made six 3-pointers and scored 20 points from there as the Americans broke away for a 119-86 victory.

LeBron James turned in the first U.S. triple-double in the Olympics with 11 points, 14 rebounds and 12 assists - with no turnovers.

Howard headed to Lakers after 4-team trade



Orlando Magic's Dwight Howard, right, drives against the Lakers' Pau Gasol during an NBA game on January 20, 2012, in Orlando, Florida. The Los Angeles Lakers have a deal in place to acquire Dwight Howard from Orlando in a four-team, eight-player trade also involving Denver and Philadelphia. AP

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Los Angeles Lakers have a deal in place to acquire Dwight Howard from Orlando in a four-team, eight-player trade also involving Denver and Philadelphia, and the NBA has scheduled a conference call Friday with the four general managers to finish the deal, according to multiple reports.

Citing unidentified sources, ESPN first reported the deal was in place. The Los Angeles Times, citing unidentified NBA executives, later confirmed the trade. The Denver Post confirmed the Nuggets' end of the deal, and Yahoo! Sports also confirmed the trade, both citing unidentified sources.

A person with knowledge of the trade also confirmed the Denver portion of the deal to The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because details have not been officially announced.

Philadelphia would get Andrew Bynum from Los Angeles and Jason Rchardson from Orlando, while Denver would get Andre Iguodala from the 76ers.

Orlando would receive Arron Afflalo and Al Harrington from Denver, Nikola Vucevic and Moe Harkless from Philadelphia, and lottery protected first-round picks from each of the three teams.

Howard had asked for a trade to Brooklyn, but Orlando failed to work out a deal with the Nets, opening the way for the Lakers to get the All-Star center.

Howard averaged 20.6 points and 14.5 rebounds in 54 regular-season games for Orlando last season. In eight seasons with the Magic, he averaged 18.4 points and 13.0 rebounds.

Cardinals rebound from blowout, beat Giants

ST. LOUIS (AP) — St. Louis bounced back from a 15-0 blowout the previous night to beat the San Francisco Giants 3-1 on Thursday, with Cardinals pitcher Adam Wainwright throwing seven strong innings.

Wainwright (10-10) allowed one run and struck out seven. He has given up two earned runs or fewer in his past five starts.

Carlos Beltran hit his 27th homer of the season for the Cardinals. Beltran, who leads the NL with 80 RBIs, hit a two-run homer off Madison Bumgarner (12-7) in the first. Bumgarner has given up 15 of his 18 home runs this season on the road.

Diamondbacks 6, Pirates 3

In Pittsburgh, Jason Kubel homered twice to lead Arizona over Pittsburgh.

Both of Kubel's home runs followed hits by Aaron Hill.

Diamondbacks starter Joe Saunders (6-8) allowed two earned runs with no walks in seven innings. Arizona had lost five of his previous six starts.

Pirates starter Wandy Rodriguez (7-11) allowed four runs in six innings. He is winless in three starts since being acquired from Houston.

Mets 6, Marlins 1

In New York, R.A. Dickey pitched a complete game for his NL-leading 15th win as New York arrested a nine-game home losing skid by beating Miami.

Dickey (15-3) struck out 10 and walked none.

Jose Reyes, the former Met turned Marlin, saw his 26-game hitting streak end. He went 0-for-4 against the All-Star knuckleballer, twice stranding runners on third base. His hitting streak was the longest of his career and the best in the majors this season.

Andres Torres homered, tripled and doubled for New York, driving in the go-ahead run after Reyes lost a popup in the sun. Torres homered off Josh Johnson (7-8) in the sixth and got an RBI triple in the eighth.

Nationals 5, Astros 0

In Houston, Michael Morse homered twice as Washington completed a four-game sweep of Houston.

Morse drove in three runs and extended his hitting streak to a career-best 18 games, the longest active streak in the majors.

Nationals starter Jordan Zimmermann (9-6) matched a career high with 11 strikeouts over six scoreless innings. It was Washington's seventh shutout this season.

The NL East-leading Nationals have won six straight and own baseball's best record at 69-43.

Astros starter Lucas Harrell (9-8) yielded five hits with five walks in five innings as Houston dropped its fifth straight.

Cubs 5, Red 3

In Chicago, Alfonso Soriano hit a go-ahead homer in the eighth inning as Chicago snapped an eight-game losing streak by defeating Cincinnati on a rain-soaked night.

With the score tied 3-3, Reds reliever Sean Marshall (4-4) issued a walk. After the skies cleared and the pitcher changed, Soriano cracked a two-run shot to center field.

Shawn Camp (3-5) pitched a perfect eighth for the win.

The Reds lost their fifth straight but remained 2_ games ahead of second-place Pittsburgh in the race for the NL Central title.

Yankees 4, Tigers 3

In Detroit, New York's Mark Teixeira and Eric Chavez hit solo home runs on consecutive pitches in the eighth inning to put the Yankees ahead and they held on to beat the Detroit Tigers 4-3 in the American League on Thursday.

Detroit pitcher Joaquin Benoit (1-3) retired the first batter in the eighth before Teixeira and Chavez connected, the eighth time the Yankees have hit consecutive homers this season.

Benoit has given up nine hits—seven for homers—in his past 10 games.

Clay Rapada (3-0) got the last two outs with one runner on base in the seventh inning to take the win, while Rafael Soriano escaped a first-and-third, no-outs jam in the ninth inning to record the save.

Rays 7, Blue Jays 1

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Matt Moore pitched six strong innings to guide Tampa Bay past Toronto.

Moore (9-7) gave up just two hits, retiring 14 straight batters during one stretch. He won his third straight start, striking out six. The rookie is 8-2 with a 2.92 ERA since the end of May.

Tampa Bay has won 16 straight series against Toronto at Tropicana Field. The Rays have won six of eight overall while the Blue Jays have lost 15 of 19.

Jose Lobaton drove in three runs for the Rays, who completed the three-game sweep.

Blue Jays starter Henderson Alvarez (7-9) gave up 11 hits in 4 2-3 innings.

Royals 8, Orioles 2

In Baltimore, Billy Butler came within a single of hitting for the cycle as Kansas City ended Baltimore's five-game winning streak.

Butler homered in a four-run first inning, doubled in the third and tripled in the fifth. Needing only a single to become the first Kansas City player in 22 years to hit the cycle, Butler struck out in the seventh and again the ninth.

He finished with three RBIs and scored three runs. Butler is 11 for 24 (.458) with three homers and five RBIs in six games against Baltimore this season.

Baltimore rookie Wei-Yin Chen (10-7) allowed a career-worst seven runs in 4 2-3 innings.

Will Smith (3-4) gave up two runs in seven innings for the Royals.

Indians 5, Red Sox 3

In Cleveland, Ubaldo Jimenez struck out a season-high 10 for his first win in more than a month as Cleveland downed Boston.

Jimenez (9-11) allowed three runs over six innings. He had been 0-4 with an 8.41 ERA in his previous five starts.

Jason Donald hit a leadoff homer against Felix Doubront (10-6) and drove in two runs for the Indians, who took a 4-3 lead with a three-run fifth.

Swede Pettersson takes early lead at PGA

KIAWAH ISLAND, S.C. (AP)—Five years ago, a leading golf publication chose Kiawah Island as the toughest golf course in America. Some of the best players in the world made it feel like a walk on the beach Thursday in the PGA Championship.

There was no wind in the morning when Carl Pettersson made three birdies on the opening four holes, and not even a freshening breeze could keep the self-proclaimed Swedish redneck from a bogey-free round of 6-under 66. It was his first time in 21 tries to break 70 in the PGA Championship, and it gave him a one-shot lead.

Rory McIlroy was on the practice range in what he described as "flat calm."

"I really thought that I had to take advantage of the conditions," said McIlroy, who did just that in a bogey-free round of 67, fresh signs that the 23-year-old from Northern Ireland might be ready to end his major season on a high note.

A hot but picturesque day along the coast of South Carolina even brought John Daly back into the picture at the major where he first came to prominence 21 years ago. Daly, who hasn't had his PGA Tour card in six years, made an eagle putt and very few mistakes for a 68.

Pete Dye's intimidating Ocean Course might still get the best of them in the final major of the year. But for one day, it was there for the taking.

"There really wasn't much wind on the front nine, so I knew I had to keep going low because I figured the wind would get up," said Pettersson, who won earlier this year down the coast at Hilton Head. "The wind started blowing a little bit on the back nine, and I carried on solid play. So it was a great day for me."

McIlroy, Gary Woodland, Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano of Spain and Alex Noren of Sweden each had a 67.

It was a good day for Tiger Woods, nothing more.

Despite having to get up-and-down for bogey on three holes, he made enough birdie putts for a 69, a reasonable start as he tries to end the longest drought of his career in the majors. This is his 14th major since he won his last one in 2008, and the last one of an otherwise good season.

"Anything in the 60s is going to be a good start in a major championship," Woods said. "And I'm right there."

He had plenty of company, some players who had not been heard from in a while, others that were all too familiar.

Woodland, who started the season with a new coach (Butch Harmon) and injured himself working too hard on the changes, is feeling better and hitting it longer than ever.

"I drove the ball the best I've driven it all year," said Woodland, one of the most powerful players in the game. "And when I drive it like that, I'm playing a game that most guys can't play out here."

Daly was in the group at 68 that included former U.S. Open champion Geoff Ogilvy and defending PGA champion Keegan Bradley, who had a birdie-eagle start before he settled into his round.

Adam Scott, in his first major since throwing away the British Open with four bogeys on his last four holes, also had a 68 to quickly get back into the mix.

"So far, so good," Scott said. "It would be great to put two more rounds together and be coming here Sunday with a good look at the championship. If I don't, then I'll really feel like I've let it all slip this year for me. So I'd love to use this opportunity while I'm playing well to get in there and have a sniff on Sunday."

The group with Woods at 69 included Ben Curtis, Ryo Ishikawa of Japan and Pat Perez, playing his first major this year.

Phil Mickelson, holding down the eighth and final spot in the Ryder Cup standings, was all over Kiawah Island and did a remarkable job scrambling to salvage a 73.

"I fought hard today and I kept myself right in it for the most part and should get a bit of a weather break tomorrow morning," Mickelson said. "It actually felt a little bit closer than it has in a long time. I felt good on the green. My touch was back. I started hitting some shots at some pins."

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

LONDON OLYMPICS MEDAL TALLY

Rank	Country	G	S	B	Total
1	United States	39	25	26	90
2	China	37	24	19	80
3	Russia	12	21	23	56
4	Great Britain	25	13	14	52
5	Germany	10	16	11	37
6	Japan	5	14	14	33
7	France	8	9	12	29
8	Australia	6	13	10	29
9	South Korea	12	7	6	25
10	Italy	7	6	6	19
11	Netherlands	5	5	6	16
12	Canada	1	5	10	16
13	Hungary	8	4	3	15
14	Spain	2	7	2	11
15	Brazil	2	2	7	11
16	Belarus	3	3	4	10
17	New Zealand	3	2	5	10
18	Ukraine	3	1	6	10
19	Kazakhstan	6	0	3	9
20	Iran	4	4	1	9
21	Jamaica	3	3	3	9
22	Romania	2	5	2	9
23	Denmark	2	4	3	9
24	Poland	2	1	6	9
25	Cuba	3	3	2	8
26	Czech Republic	2	3	3	8
27	Kenya	2	2	3	7
28	Sweden	1	3	3	7
29	Colombia	0	3	3	6
30	North Korea	4	0	1	5
31	South Africa	3	1	1	5
32	Mexico	0	3	2	5
33	Azerbaijan	0	2	3	5
34	Croatia	2	1	1	4
35	Ethiopia	2	0	2	4
36	Slovenia	1	1	2	4
37	India	0	1	3	4
37	Slovakia	0	1	3	4
39	Switzerland	2	1	0	3
40	Georgia	1	1	1	3
40	Norway	1	1	1	3
42	Armenia	0	1	2	3
42	Belgium	0	1	2	3
42	Mongolia	0	1	2	3
45	Dominican Republic	1	1	0	2
46	Ireland	1	0	1	2
46	Lithuania	1	0	1	2
46	Turkey	1	0	1	2
49	Egypt	0	2	0	2
50	Taiwan	0	1	1	2
50	Estonia	0	1	1	2
50	Indonesia	0	1	1	2
50	Malaysia	0	1	1	2
50	Serbia	0	1	1	2
50	Thailand	0	1	1	2
50	Tunisia	0	1	1	2
57	Greece	0	0	2	2
57	Qatar	0	0	2	2
57	Moldova	0	0	2	2
57	Singapore	0	0	2	2
61	Algeria	1	0	0	1
61	Grenada	1	0	0	1
61	Venezuela	1	0	0	1
64	Botswana	0	1	0	1
64	Bulgaria	0	1	0	1
64	Cyprus	0	1	0	1
64	Finland	0	1	0	1
64	Guatemala	0	1	0	1
64	Portugal	0	1	0	1
70	Afghanistan	0	0	1	1
70	Argentina	0	0	1	1
70	Hong Kong	0	0	1	1
70	Kuwait	0	0	1	1
70	Latvia	0	0	1	1
70	Morocco	0	0	1	1
70	Puerto Rico	0	0	1	1
70	Saudi Arabia	0	0	1	1
70	Tajikistan	0	0	1	1
70	Trinidad and Tobago	0	0	1	1
70	Uzbekistan	0	0	1	1

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	65	46	.586	–
Baltimore	60	52	.536	5½
Tampa Bay	59	52	.532	6
Boston	55	58	.487	11
Toronto	53	58	.477	12

Central Division

Chicago	60	50	.545	–
Detroit	60	52	.536	1
Cleveland	52	60	.464	9
Minnesota	49	62	.441	11½
Kansas City	48	63	.432	12½

West Division

Texas	65	45	.591	–
Oakland	60	51	.541	5½
Los Angeles	59	53	.527	7
Seattle	51	62	.451	15½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	69	43	.616	–
Atlanta	64	47	.577	4½
New York	54	58	.482	15
Miami	51	61	.455	18
Philadelphia	50	61	.450	18½

Central Division

Cincinnati	66	46	.589	–
Pittsburgh	63	48	.568	2½
St. Louis	61	51	.545	5
Milwaukee	51	59	.464	14
Chicago	44	66	.400	21
Houston	36	77	.319	30½

West Division

San Francisco	61	51	.545	–
Los Angeles	60	52	.536	1
Arizona	57	55	.509	4
San Diego	49	64	.434	12½
Colorado	40	69	.367	19½

PGA CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

KIAWAH ISLAND, South Carolina (AP)–Scores Thursday from the U.S. PGA Championship, played at the 7,676-yard, par-72 Kiawah Island Golf Resort (Ocean Course).

FIRST ROUND

Carl Pettersson	32-34–66
Gary Woodland	34-33–67
Rory McIlroy	34-33–67
Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano	34-33–67
Alex Noren	33-34–67
John Daly	34-34–68
Geoff Ogilvy	34-34–68
Keegan Bradley	33-35–68
Joost Luiten	37-31–68
Aaron Baddeley	34-34–68
Adam Scott	34-34–68
Scott Piercy	35-33–68
Graeme McDowell	35-33–68
Pat Perez	35-34–69
Ben Curtis	35-34–69
Ryo Ishikawa	34-35–69
Tiger Woods	34-35–69
Cameron Tringale	33-36–69
Peter Hanson	34-35–69
Jamie Donaldson	35-34–69
Miguel Angel Jimenez	35-34–69
K.T. Kim	36-33–69
Justin Rose	35-34–69
K.J. Choi	33-36–69
Greg Chalmers	34-36–70
Thomas Bjorn	34-36–70
Louis Oosthuizen	32-38–70
Ian Poulter	36-34–70
Francesco Molinari	34-36–70
Charl Schwartzel	33-37–70
Padraig Harrington	36-34–70
Matteo Manassero	33-38–71
Ken Duke	33-38–71
Martin Laird	35-36–71
Rafa Cabrera-Bello	34-37–71
Trevor Immelman	34-37–71
Dustin Johnson	36-35–71
Ryan Palmer	36-35–71
Tim Clark	33-38–71
George McNeill	36-35–71
Brendon de Jonge	35-36–71
Fredrik Jacobson	36-35–71
Rich Beem	35-36–71
Vijay Singh	34-37–71
Blake Adams	35-36–71
Marcel Siem	36-36–72
Toru Taniguchi	37-35–72
Jim Furyk	36-36–72
Shaun Micheel	36-36–72
David Toms	35-37–72
Bernd Wiesberger	37-35–72
Jason Day	38-34–72
John Huh	36-36–72
Thomas Aiken	38-34–72
Matt Every	36-36–72
Hiroyuki Fujita	36-36–72
Sang Moon Bae	35-37–72
John Rollins	35-37–72
Anders Hansen	36-36–72
Hunter Mahan	36-36–72
Ernie Els	35-37–72
Zach Johnson	37-35–72
Davis Love III	38-34–72
Matt Kuchar	37-35–72
J.J. Henry	36-36–72
D.A. Points	36-37–73
John Senden	38-35–73
Michael Thompson	37-36–73
Rory Sabbatini	36-37–73
Darren Clarke	37-36–73
Ryan Moore	37-36–73
Chris Stroud	38-35–73
Thongchai Jaidee	37-36–73
David Lynn	38-35–73
Nicolas Colsaerts	36-37–73
Jonathan Byrd	34-39–73
Jimmy Walker	37-36–73

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tan Holdings hosts sports festival

Tan Holdings will be holding the 40th Anniversary Sports Festival that will commence this month and continue until the end of November. The games will be held in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the company doing business in the region.

The festival will feature six sports: bike race, baseball, soccer, bowling, badminton, and basketball.

Festival tournaments for these six sports will be held at different dates throughout the next few months with the bike race kicking off the competitions first on Aug. 26. Tan Holdings will give $500 cash and $500 worth of sports equipment to each of the six sports organizations, while winners in the various tournaments will receive gift certificates for sports equipment ranging from $200 to $500.

Tony Rogolifoi and Rose Igitol will be in charge for the baseball tournament, while Ross Zapanta will take care of the bowling event set for Oct. 6 and 7. Basketball is also set for October with James Lee as the contact person, while badminton's Merlie Tolentino will announce the exact date of their November competition. Ed Salas and the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association is also eyeing November as the start of their tournament. Vince Seman is in charge of holding the bike race later this month, while Tan Siu Lin Foundation manager Ed Arriola will be the overall tournament coordinator.

Interested participants are encouraged to contact the aforementioned individuals to see how they can participate in these exciting games

"I've always seen sports as an essential part of a community. Our islands have so many talented athletes and this sports festival will be sure to please players and fans. The participating organizations are well managed with dedicated people who will ensure successful tournaments. Best of luck to all the participants," Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan said.

For more information, contact Arriola at ed_arriola@tanholdings.com or call Becky Tenorio at 287-4578. ***(PR)***

BREWERS

From Page 28

Two hits and some extra throws moved the Brewers within two after the fifth, 3-5, as Clifton Silil was credited with an RBI base rip and they assumed control, 6-5, in the bottom of the sixth frame using the same recipe.

Brewers' Roy Celis led off with a walk and was driven home by Mike Pangelinan. Then a sacrifice bunt by Oliver Secharmedal ended up getting Pangelinan to the plate. Secharmedal advanced to third base off the error and legged out a suicide slide for the lead.

Camacho remained steady from the rubber late in the duel and teammate Tony Guerrero provided insurance with a base knock that brought Pangelinan to the plate. Guerrero then stole second and third before making it home off another infield error.

The IT&E-Shell Fielders threatened a last inning comeback, but Camacho pulled it together and got it done. He contained IT&E-Shell to just one run before leaving their foe with a couple of runners on the path.

Camacho gave up zero earned runs off three hits with eight strikeouts through six innings.

With the victory, the Brewers need only one more win against the IT&E-Shell Fielders next week to advance to the best-of-five title series versus the winner of the Yankees-Angels duel. The second-ranked Saipan Stevedore Company Yankees took Game 1 of their separate semis series against defending champions St. Michael's Medical Response Angels after coasting to a 13-2 win in the playoffs opener last Tuesday.

The Yankees will try a semis series sweep on Monday when they face the Angels anew at 6:30pm at the "Tan Ko" field.

SOLO

From Page 28

best goalkeeper in the world.

"You can't go without saying that Hope saved the day," U.S. forward Abby Wambach. "Literally. Five times."

The Americans became champions for the third consecutive Olympics, beating Japan 2-1 Thursday in a rematch of last year's World Cup final. Carli Lloyd scored early in both halves, and the entire roster found the salve it had been seeking since that penalty kick shootout loss in Germany 13 months ago.

"They snatched our dream last summer," U.S. midfielder Megan Rapinoe said. "And this kind of feels like the nightmare turned back around."

Turned back around with every shot turned back by Solo, who leaped high with her left hand to knock one off the crossbar early in the game and then made the save of the Olympics in the 83rd minute, when Mana Iwabuchi stripped the ball from captain Christie Rampone and swooped in toward the net—only to be thwarted when the goalie lunged left to deflect the ball out of harm's way.

"I knew I had to make the save," Solo said. "That was pretty much my only thought. I had to make that save."

Solo now owns two Olympic gold medals as well as the golden glove award as the top goalie at last year's World Cup.

Solo has a long history of speaking her mind, and has made plenty of headlines over the years for doing so. The most recent Solo saga came earlier in the games when she ripped NBC analyst and former American player Brandi Chastain's game commentary on Twitter, prompting her coach to call her in for a meeting.

"Hope Solo, she says a lot on Twitter, I guess. I don't follow her," U.S. coach Pia Sundhage said. "But what matters is what kind of team player she is and how she performs. ... Today Hope Solo had a very good game. She brought the gold back to the United States of America."

Before 80,203 fans at Wembley Stadium, a record for a women's soccer game at the Olympics, the teams put on a back-and-forth, don't-turn-your-head soccer showcase, proving again that these are the two premier teams in the world. Women's soccer is still in its formative stages in Britain, but the match proved more than worthy for the hallowed grounds of the beautiful game.

Back home, America was paying attention—just as it was last year and despite all the other Olympic events. Even President Barack Obama gave a special shout-out to the women's team for its victory.

"Congrats to the U.S. women's soccer team for a third straight Olympic gold. So proud," he tweeted.

At the final whistle, there was a group-hug celebration that unleashed a year of bottled-up frustration. Many of the players paraded with the flag and put on the celebratory T-shirts. Wambach, the outspoken co-captain who missed the Beijing Games with a broken leg, strayed alone to midfield and cried into a U.S. flag.

"The Olympics is a perfect platform in terms of what life is," Wambach said. "You cannot win at everything you attempt in life. You have to be willing to fail and fall flat on your face in order to get glory. And we really did fail last year, in our opinion. We have to give Japan credit. They're a fantastic team.

"But anything less than winning for us is a failure. And we worked tirelessly all year long to prove that we still can win and we are still champions."

LOPEZ

From Page 28

Tamarua Payne, 6-4, 2-6, 6-4, and Guam's Christian Penafiel, 6-3, 6-2, respectively.

In the girls U18, Thea Minor had a strong finish, as she swept her last three matches after dropping the first four to duplicate her 2011 performance. Minor had another fifth place finish in the U18 after ending the round-robin, 8-player field with a 3-4 record. The Saipan Southern High School student gained back-to-back wins in the last day of the pool play, topping Papua New Guinea's Lorish Puluspene, 6-3, 6-2, and Samoa's Loloma Ripley, 6-2, 6-1.

In the boys U15, Christian Cajigan was ranked No. 6 out of 11 players after losing his last singles match in the Fiji tournament. Cajigan, who won his first consolation game against Kevin Maukolao last Wednesday, 7-6 (4) retired, bowed to Kiribati's Kevin Maukolai last Thursday, 3-6, 6-7 (5).

Meanwhile, the CNMI bets started playing in the doubles events in Fiji yesterday and results will be published in *Saipan Tribune*'s Monday edition.

SHOTTAS

From Page 28

first in as many games. Shottas is ahead by one win against the R-Rebels (4-1), who clipped the Rollers, 61-54, in the second match of the night.

The Saints (3-1), Rollers (2-3), Peacemakers (1-3), GVH (1-4), Safety 1st (0-3), and Hi-5 (0-3) complete the U25 field.

Shottas was playing the Saints last night in the first game, while GVH was taking on the Peacemakers in the second tiff and results of these matches were unavailable at press time.

Eugene Manglona, Frank Mettao, and Olomai delivered 8 points each in the opening frame as Shottas built a 27-23 halftime lead. Manglona and Mettao carried the torch in the second half again, as they combined for 16 more points to retain Shottas' perfect record.

Dominic Reyes managed 16 on the short end for GVH, while Zack Babauta and Olomai teamed up for five treys for Shottas.

In the second game, Freddie Litulumar and Ben Lisua drillled three-pointers in the first half to lift the R-Rebels to a 31-26 lead at midpoint.

The Rollers did not go away quietly and used the depth of its bench to stay within two possessions heading into the final minutes. However, the R-Rebels forced a couple of big turnovers late in the game to foil the Rollers' comeback bids.

Trevor Ogumoro stepped up with 8 points in the clutch to seal the win for the R-Rebels. Litulumar top-scored for the R-Rebels with his 10 points, while the Rollers' Jon Laniyo turned in a game-high 15 in the defeat.

First Game

Shottas 49 – Manglona 16, Mettao 16, Olomai 8, Babauta 7.

GVH 39 – Reyes 16, Ogarto 12, Ulloa 5, Quitugua 2, Iguel 2

Scoring by halves: 27-23, 49-39.

Second Game

R-Rebels 61 – Litulumar 10, Lisua 8, Ogumoro 8, Norita 6, E. Camacho 6, Nawaz 6, Lisua 5, Zen 2.

Rollers 54 – Laniyo 15, P. Camacho 11, Malonzo 8, Teregeyo 5, Iglesias 5, Mizer 2, Espinosa 2, Ichnis 2, A. Camacho 2.

Scoring by halves: 31-26, 61-54.

Medal count: US extends lead over China

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Howard headed to Lakers after 4-team trade

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Lopez saves the best for last

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Mikayla Lopez clinched her first championship in her last appearance in the girls U15 singles of the Pacific Oceania Junior Championships after edging fellow CNMI player Negahr Rastguiy in their title game last Thursday in Fiji.

Lopez, who is on her third stint in POJC and will be moving up to the tougher U18 age group next year, swept Rastguiy in last Thursday's finale, 6-1, 6-2, at the Dr. Robin Mitchell Regional Tennis Centre in Lautoka to give the CNMI Teams its lone first place finish (singles) in the five-day competition.

Rastguiy, who played in the POJC's U15 draw for the first time, had her second straight runner-up finish in the Fiji tournament. Last year, the 13-year-old CNMI bet lost to teammate Tammy Ackerman in the girls U12 finals.

Ackerman also climbed up to the girls U15 division this year and she, Lopez, and Rastguiy dominated the Final Four of the age group. Ackerman then failed to advance to the finals after bowing to Lopez in the semis last Wednesday, 1-6, 2-6. The former Saipan Community School student went on to place fourth in the U15 after absorbing another loss at the hands of Samoa's Anastasia Tapusoa in the battle for third, 1-6, 0-6.

The CNMI missed its second singles crown in Fiji after Isabel Heras dropped her U12 title game against Fiji's Ruby Coffin. The host's bet pulled off a 6-4 win in the opening set and then cruised to a 6-1 triumph in the second to complete the sweep.

Heras's teammate, Carol Lee, also lost her consolation match against Vanuatu's Emma Maucotel, 3-6, 2-6, to settle for the No. 4 spot in the 12-player field. Heras made it to the finals after edging Lee in the semis, while Coffin prevailed over Maucotel in the other Final Four pairing.

In other age groups, three other CNMI players had respectable fifth place finishes in their respective divisions.

After falling one step short of marching into the semifinals, Luther Lizama notched two victories in the consolation draw to finish at the No. 5 spot in the 10-player field. Lizama secured the No. 5 place after eking out a three-set win over Vanuatu's Julien Pineda. Lizama, who defeated Cook Islands' Elijah Amataiti last Wednesday, 6-2, 7-6, faltered in the opening set, 4-6, but stole the win after sweeping the last two, 7-5, 6-1.

Duplicating Lizama'z feat was boys U18's Christian Miller. Miller survived teammate Rafael Jones in the consolation game, 3-6, 6-2, 6-1 to finish fifth in his debut in the U18 age group. Jones and Miller, who both missed the Final Four round by just one win, arranged their battle for the No. 5 spot in the 11-player field after beating Cook Islands'

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mikayla Lopez is seen here waiting for the ball at the baseline during a local tournament early this year at the Pacific Islands Club court. Lopez gave the CNMI its lone first place win in the 2012 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships after ruling the girls U15 singles last Thursday in Fiji.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

The R-Rebels' Roy Norita sneaks in a shot between two Rollers defenders during their U25 game in the Docomo caging last Thursday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Shottas keeps unbeaten record in U25 caging

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Shottas is still undefeated in the U25 division of the 3rd Docomo Pacific Summer Basketball League after trotting past GVH, 49-39, last Thursday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

The league-leading Shottas played better in the second half en route to the 10-point victory, its

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Brewers overcome IT&E Shell Fielders in Game 1

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The pennant champions Tan Holding Brewers pulled off an 8-6 win over the IT&E-Shell Fielders at the start of their best-of-three semis series in the 2012 Saipan Major League last Thursday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Ballfield

The home team Brewers struck first off early jitters by IT&E-Shell Fielders' infield, but ran cold in the next three innings, as I&E-Shell's pitcher Jimmy Brel settled down into his zone.

The IT&E-Shell Fielders postured up for four runs in the second inning off some errors, an RBI single from Anthony Tenorio, and a two-RBI double from Brandon Santos. It then went ahead, 5-1, in the third inning off another three hits and an error.

Brewers' starter Vince Cepeda was tapped in the top of the fourth inning after issuing a leadoffwalk and Thomas Camacho came in and built a wall from that point, holding the IT&E-Shell Fielders scoreless in the next five innings.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Tan Holdings Brewers' Thomas Camacho sends home a pitch against the IT&E-Shell Fielders in Game 1 of their SML semis series last Thursday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Camacho's teammates rewarded his effort with a five-run rally in the fifth and sixth innings and bagged him some late insurance for good measure.

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AP

United States goalkeeper Hope Solo (1) makes a save against Japan during the women's soccer gold medal match at the 2012 Summer Olympics, Thursday, Aug. 9, 2012, in London.

Solo leads US to Olympic soccer gold

By JOSEPH WHITE
AP SPORTS WRITER

WEMBLEY, England (AP)—In the closing minutes of the Olympic final, goalie Hope Solo flung her body toward the ball and managed to push it away. The lead stayed intact. The Americans would win the gold medal and redemption from a year-old World Cup heartache.

The U.S. women's soccer team puts up with a lot from Solo. The candid comments. The Twitter tangents. The pause she put on her training to appear on "Dancing With the Stars."

But when the game is on the line, she's still hands-down—not to mention hands-up and hands-to-the-side—the

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